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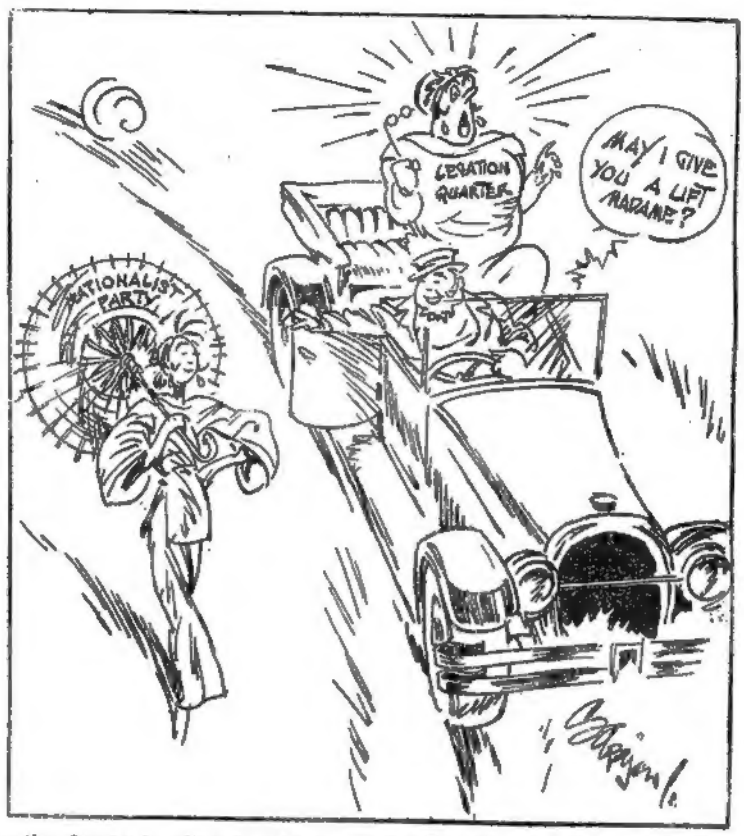

Legation Quarter is said to be dubious regarding Britain's new policy towards China

NEW POLICY AMONG POWERS TOWARDS CHINA

Formal Communication by British Charge d'Affaires to Diplomatic Body: Liberal and Far-reaching: Mr. Lampson Gone to Peking: Endorsement of Cantonese Surtax or Recognition of Canton Govt.?

FRIENDLY CONTACT ESTABLISHED WITH SOUTH

Constructive Scheme in Harmony With Washington Decisions? Satisfaction in London at Britain Taking the Lead: Other Legations Said to be Dubious

FROM RODNEY GILBERT

Peking, Dec. 19.

Liberal and far-reaching proposals are understood to have been submitted to a meeting of the Diplomatic Corps on Saturday morning by Mr. O'Malley, the British Chargé d'Affaires. They have reference, it is thought, to a new working arrangement with the Canton Government, but this is only surmise, as neither the British nor any other Legation will authorize the publication of any information beyond the bare report of the meeting. The British Legation say that a statement will probably be issued in London.

Unofficial circles are wondering whether this supposed plan, evolved by Mr. Miles Lampson and Mr. Eugene Chen, includes any scheme for the merging of the Canton import taxes in an arrangement for generally implementing the Washington surtaxes under the ægis of the Maritime Customs, for otherwise it is a question as to how long the Northern warlords will refrain from following Canton's example of swelling its war chest out of extra import taxation.

Discussions have already take place, and as a preliminary step the Waichiaopu is considering the despatch of a request to the Powers for the resumption of the Tariff Conference.

ENDORSEMENT OF CANTONESE SURTAX

Or Recognition of Canton Government? Satisfaction in London

FROM RODNEY GILBERT

Peking, Dec. 20.

The British proposals to the Diplomatic Body from the Foreign Office are still maintained a secret, but it is reasonably certain that they suggest international endorsement of the surtaxes which Canton proposes to impose, and their collection by the Customs service.

Diplomatic opinion does not wholly approve of this suggestion.

Peking, Dec. 18.

A meeting was held this morning at the Senior Minister's house of Foreign Ministers to whom the British Chargé d'Affaires communicated a document of considerable importance regarding general policy in China.

It is believed that the document contained new proposals of a liberal and far-reaching kind.

Much Interest and Speculation

Dec. 19.

Considerable interest and speculation have been aroused regarding Reuter's announcement that the British Chargé d'Affaires handed a document of considerable importance to the Foreign Ministers at Peking yesterday.

Hitherto no official statement has been issued in the connexion, but details of the proposals may be made very shortly.—Reuter.

Hankow, Dec. 17.

The concluding meeting, at least for the time being, between Mr. Miles Lampson and Mr. Eugene Chen took place on board H. M. S. Petersfield earlier in the day.

The conversations throughout have been very cordial. They have cleared the air considerably and have created a friendly atmosphere which both sides feel to be a distinct gain in the direction of the better understanding which, it is believed, will result.

It is understood that the conversations will be renewed soon after the New Year

Dec. 18.

H. M. S. Petersfield, with Mr. Lampson on board, left last night for Pukow, whence the Minister takes train for Peking.—Reuter.

Sir Sidney Barton, H. M. Consul-General, left by train on Sunday night to meet the Minister at Nanking.

Britain's Lead Welcomed

London, Dec. 20.

Referring to the meeting of the Diplomatic Corps at Peking on Saturday, the "Times" deduces that the British Government has taken the initiative in an attempt to reduce all the premises and principles of the Washington Convention to a very simple issue—practical recognition that modern Chinese nationalism is a fact and many of its claims are entirely legitimate.

The paper says that it has really become quite intolerable that Great Britain should be blamed vehemently, persistently and exclusively for a state of affairs for which Britain, least of all, is to blame.

The "Times" dwells on the hampering attitude of other nations on British policy owing to the necessity of keeping in line with them and rejoices that Britain's restraint and seeming passivity have been abandoned.

The journal stresses that British policy is the most liberal hitherto proposed and goes much the furthest in practically recognizing the legitimate demands of Chinese nationalism.

The paper considers that the most serious fact in China to-day is the permeation of very active forces in Chinese nationalism by Bolshevist influence.—Reuter.

French Applause

Paris, Dec. 20.

"L'Oeuvre" considers that the British Government was wise to instruct Mr. Lampson to confer with the Cantonese, if only to remind the "violent nationalists of the South" that Japan secured her independence at the end of last century not so much by force as by perseverance.—Reuter.

MR. LAMPSON IN HANKOW

Hopeful View of Conversations with Mr. Eugene Chen

Hankow, Dec. 10.

The conversations between Mr. Lampson, the British Minister, and Mr. Eugene Chen the Cantonese Minister for Foreign Affairs, continue almost daily.

While naturally no official statements as to their nature are being given out—both sides being pledged to secrecy in this connexion—it is understood that a very considerable amount of ground has been covered.

The fact that each side now knows and appreciates the other's point of view on many matters about which there has hitherto been misunderstanding is felt to continue the progress, if not towards a solution of recognition of the Southern Government, at least towards a better understanding by each party of the precise issues involved in that question.

Mr. Lampson is expected to leave here to-morrow for Peking.

Meanwhile the military situation in the North is very obscure. In no quarter, official or unofficial, is it understood. Until it develops it is impossible to say precisely how strong the Southern position here is. That the Southerners feel it to be secure is evidenced by the almost wholesale transference of the Kuomintang Party records and documents from Canton to Hankow. These are coming overland. There has also been transference of some Government records but not to the same extent.

Five professional orators, who address popular demonstrations at various places *en route* are accompanying the cavalcade of party officials, despatch boxes and soldier guards now on their way from Canton to Hankow.

So far Mr. Saburi, the chief of the Treaty Bureau of the Japanese Foreign Office, who is investigating conditions in China, has had no official conversations with the Southern Government. He has not yet met Mr. Eugene Chen.—Reuter.

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GREAT BRITAIN'S SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE

Constructive Scheme In Harmony With Washington Findings

London, Dec. 20.

The contents of the memorandum handed by the British Chargé d'Affaires at Peking to the representatives of the Powers have not been disclosed but it is known that the new statement constitutes another effort by the British Government to pursue a constructive policy in harmony with the spirit of the Washington Conference, but developed and adopted to meet the altered circumstances in China.

It is pointed out that the sympathetic attitude of Great Britain to the Chinese aspirations for revision of the existing treaties had become obscured owing to the absence of a Central Government in China, the existence of which was a necessary condition for the carrying out of the Washington programme.

In the spirit of the Washington agreements the British Government have now laid before other Powers certain suggestions regarding 'the attitude which, in their opinion, should be adopted towards the question of surtaxes, extraterritoriality and revision of treaties. While continuing rigidly to abstain from interference in civil strife, the British Government feel that the growth of the national Chinese sentiment necessitates careful review by the Powers of the whole position. Regarding the Washington surtax, the British view is that disposal of these additional revenues should be left for competent Chinese authorities to decide.—British Wireless through Reuter.

NEW BRITISH FORCES TO HONGKONG

Suffolk Regt. and H. M. S. Enterprise

Gibraltar, Dec. 17.

It is authoritatively stated that the Second Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment is leaving for Hongkong. —Reuter.

Hongkong, Dec. 18.

H. M. S. Enterprise has arrived. —Reuter.

Malta, Dec. 18.

It is now stated that the Fourth Destroyer Flotilla is not accompanying the cruiser Caradoc to China immediately. It is understood that if the Flotilla goes it will probably not be before February. If so, it is believed that it will relieve the Third Flotilla.—Reuter.

BRITISH NAVAL FORCES INCREASED

The Cruiser Emerald Coming from East Indies

London, Dec. 18.

Orders have been given for strengthening the British Naval Forces on the China Station. The cruiser Emerald from the East Indies is on her way to Hongkong and H. M. S. Enterprise, a sister ship of the Emerald, left Singapore on Monday. The cruiser Caradoc has sailed from Malta for China.

The China Squadron has been short of one of its cruisers owing to the return home for recommissioning of the cruiser Durban. She is now visiting her name port on her way back to the Far East and will probably touch Hongkong in three or four weeks.

Reinforcements which have been added to China include the airship-carrier Hermes and the Third Destroyer Flotilla consisting of one flotilla leader and eight destroyers.

The Fourth Destroyer Flotilla is awaiting orders at Malta and the Eighth Destroyer Flotilla is in home ports preparing for foreign service. —British Wireless through Reuter.

EXTREMIST DEMANDS IN HANKOW

Race Club Asked for 20 Per Cent. of Profits

Hankow, Dec. 17.

The Political Bureau has demanded one-fifth of the profits of the Hankow Race Club, which, as is well known, is not only a race club but the chief foreign recreation, social and amusement centre here. It is situated in Chinese territory, a mile and a half outside the British Concession and is registered as a British company.

The Bureau also demands that the Club's books be audited by the Bureau as are, at present, the books of all Chinese store-keepers in the native city.

The British Concession Servants Union is preparing demands which will be presented to the British Consul, probably by Monday.

All the Chinese jewellery shops have closed down on account of the demands from the unions and because of high taxation.

WHEN THE SERVANTS' UNION AT HANKOW REALLY GETS GOING

HANKOW SERVANTS' DEMANDS

New Scheme for Raising Money for the Union

Hankow, Dec. 17.

The Servants Union to-day issued pamphlets containing the demands they intend to present to the British Consul. These follow:

1.—Members cannot be dismissed or in any way oppressed. Should employees have cause for complaint they must inform the Union, who will deal with the matter.

2.—Wages must be increased as per a scale issued by the Political Bureau. They must be increased yearly and a month's wages must be given in Chinese New Year.

3.—The Union shall superintend members' behaviour and the Union's inspectors shall visit at their discretion the premises in which members are employed.

4.—Employers must provide medical attention except in cases of venereal disease.

5.—Three week's holiday must be given yearly or a month's pay instead.

6.—Vacancies as they occur must be filled by the Union.

A limit of seven days is given for accedence to the demands.

The increases demanded range from about 10 per cent. in the case of highly-paid members to 100 per cent. in the case of lowly-paid ones.

First Month Earmarked

Dec. 18.

Regarding the numerous demands for increases in wages, it is stated that the whole of the first month's increase goes to the union in question and 10 per cent. of the succeeding months' extra pay. It is understood that the union pays over a large portion, variously estimated at between 50 and 90 per cent. of this to the Political Bureau.

The latter, it might be mentioned, is the mainspring of the Southern movement, in which it exercises great power. Its membership comprises heads of the Government and of the Kuomintang. At present it is more or less dominated by extremists.—Reuter.

MORE DESTROYERS FOR CHINA

Malta, Dec. 17.

The Fourth Destroyer Flotilla has been ordered to leave for China and is now taking in munitions and stores. The flotilla will probably leave this afternoon and may be accompanied by the cruiser Caradoc.—Reuter.

MERCHANTS BOYCOTT THREAT

Protest Against Arbitrary Oppression

Shanghai, Dec. 18.

The General Chamber of Commerce and leading merchants in Hankow passed a resolution the other day that if the Revolutionary Government further continues to oppress the citizens and labourers to act arbitrarily, the merchants will be compelled to commence a boycott against them. The indications are that the boycott may be started shortly, says a Hankow telegram of yesterday's date, which reached Shanghai this morning.

According to the same telegram, the strike of the sailors of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. was settled on the 16th instant, and strikes of the workers of the Electric Light Company, of street-cleaners, and of coachmen are taking place intermittently but they are being settled in a day or two.

EXPLOSION ON JARDINE STEAMER

Gunpowder and Ammunition Hidden in Bedding

Hankow, Dec. 18.

In response to signals from the Jardine vessel Kungwo which arrived this morning, H. M. S. Bee put an armed guard on board the ship to-day.

It appears that an explosion occurred in the third-class quarters at nine o'clock last night. Investigation disclosed several bags of gunpower and quantities of rifle and revolver ammunition hidden in the passengers' bedding.

Four Chinese were sent to hospital, badly burnt.

It is believed the explosion was quite accidental.—Reuter.

CANTON'S NEW MONEY SCHEME

Bond Issue Suggested to Rank as Currency

Hankow, Dec. 18.

The Southern Government at a meeting yesterday decided to issue bonds totalling $35 000,000 in denominations of five dollars and upwards. They will take the form of notes and replace the currency used at present in Hupeh. The scheme will operate from January 1 and the issue will be secured on likin stations and provincial banks.

News of the scheme, on leaking out, caused a great flutter among Chinese merchants. It is expected that the foregoing plan for raising money will later extend to the other provinces under Cantonese control. —Reuter.

CANTON LEADERS AT WUCHANG

Borodin's Invitation to China to Combine in Support of the Nationalists

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Wuchang, Dec. 14.

The feeling of tension and anxiety which was so marked a little over a week ago in this centre, has to a very large degree subsided. Attention has been focussed mainly on fêting the newly arrived members of the Nationalist Government from Canton. The leading members of the party arrived in Hankow last Thursday and included Comrade Borodin, Russian Advisor to the Nationalist Government, Mr. Eugene Chen, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sung, Minister of Finance and Mrs. Sun Yat-sen. General Chiang Kai-shek has not yet arrived.

On Friday, December 10, a great mass meeting was held at the Reh Ma Chang in front of the Provincial Assembly buildings to welcome the newly arrived leaders. During the morning long processions wound their way to the meeting place and by noon, when the speeches commenced, a crowd of about 50,000 people had collected. The banners and highly decorated platforms for speeches presented a very gay spectacle. Two aeroplanes and a hydroplane circled over the assembly during the proceedings. Borodin was the principal speaker but his speech lost much of its point owing, on the one hand, to the fact that he spoke at great length and on the other to the necessity of his being interpreted, since he spoke in English.

A Soviet Imperialist

Borodin was also the leading speaker at the far greater meeting which was held on Saturday in Hankow at the Water Tower. One estimate of the numbers at this gathering is about a quarter of a million but this is probably a fairly big exaggeration. At any rate, all shops were closed, all business at a standstill and the whole city was on holiday. It was undoubtedly the greatest meeting which Wuhan has ever witnessed.

Borodin's speech was framed very closely on Dr. Sun Yat-sen's "San Ming Chu I." He called first of all upon them to remember that the work of the Revolution was not yet completed and that they must unite and unify the country under one Nationalist Government. He laid before his hearers the prospects of better times to come, of better government, independence, of improved finances, of modern communications and, last but not least, better pay for work done and a reformation of the land system, whereby the unearned increment would be secured for the benefit of the country and not retained by the landlord. He emphasized the necessity of the Chinese using their own capital in building up their own railways, banks and trade. He repudiated any intention on the part of the Nationalist Government to flood the market with worthless unredeemable paper money and stated that, while a period of unrest following on the war was inevitable, it was only transitory and would shortly be followed by an era of consolidation and progress. Finally he roundly denounced Imperialism and the "unequal" treaties, which he described as a "charter of slavery handed from a corrupt, degraded and prostituted dynasty."

Both the above meetings were conducted with complete orderliness and the tremendous ovation accorded to the speakers shows the unanimity of opinion in favour of the newly established government.

The Anti-British Faction

It seems as if a dead set is to be made at all things British in Central China. A society has been formed which is working out carefully and thoroughly a scheme of thorough-going boycott. Whether the scheme will fructify only time will show.

At the end of last week the newly arrived British Minister for China, Mr. Miles Lampson, was in Hankow studying the present situation first hand. Whilst here he conferred with Mr. Eugene Chen, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the National Government. It is to be hoped that this meeting may have done something towards restoring a better understanding between the two countries.

Wuchang rings day by day from every quarter with sounds of soldiers at drill—the new National Army in the making. Every available flat space has been commandeered for the purpose.

The Religious Test

It may interest some readers to hear of the new departure made at the Central China University and Boone Middle School in the matter of voluntary religious worship and

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prayers. After long and careful discussion it was decided to place morning prayers on an entirely voluntary basis, both for college and middle school students. Sunday services as far as the college is concerned are also voluntary. In the Middle School the student may elect either to go to church or attend a lecture of an ethical nature.

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS' THREAT

New Organization to Fight Religious Institutions

Hankow, Dec. 20.

The conversations between Mr. Saburi, the chief of the Treaty Bureau of the Japanese Foreign Office, and Mr. Eugene Chen, Canton's Foreign Minister, began on Saturday.

The latest additions to the numerous new unions and societies recently formed is "The Association for the Overthrow of all Foreign Religious Institutions."

The Agricultural Labourers' Union has presented demands to the landowners and farmers, threatening to refuse to prepare land for spring planting and to prevent sowing in the event that their demands are not met.

The situation is regarded by the Political Bureau as very serious, as the carrying out of the threat is likely to cause a famine. The Bureau is making great efforts to avert the strike. The Peasants' and Labourers' Union is siding with the Agricultural Labourers' Union against the Bureau.

There was a heavy snowfall on Saturday. Rain and sleet have fallen almost without intermission for the last fortnight.—Reuter.

KARAKHAN FOR CANTON

FROM RODNEY GILBERT

Peking, Dec. 17.

Local Russians are advised that with Comrade Chicherin's return to Moscow the Soviet will send Comrade Karakhan as Ambassador to the Southern Government, after which the Embassy in Peking will be regarded as a subsidiary affair.

THE RECOGNITION OF CANTON

Wide Interest Taken in Hongkong by House of Commons Debate

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Hongkong, Dec. 14.

The debate in Parliament on the recognition of the Canton Government as brought up by Mr. L. N. Leefe formerly of Hongkong received wide interest here. Local opinion seems to be favourable to recognizing the *régime* in Canton or rather in Wuchang. In fact, certain sections are of opinion that this step is long overdue.

Moderate opinion may find expression in the following view of a local morning paper which says: "In discussing the matter, however, it is advisable for a beginning to ignore details and consider the board aspects. There appear to be two sharply divided school of British thought. One regards an offer of recognition as tantamount to surrender in the face of unfair attack, and ranges itself behind the "Daily Telegraph" by holding Russia as an awful example. The other is firmly of opinion that the recognition of *de facto* government is long overdue and along constitutes the gesture needed for Anglo-Chinese friendship. Hongkong opinion inclines towards the latter school, and there is locally some regret that the matter was not taken up some months ago. Is Canton entitled to recognition? To argue the matter would require great space. We can arrive at once at a conclusion and reply in the affirmative." The paper concludes that Hongkong is closely interested in the discussion of recognition, and that it is time representations should go publicly from this section of the Far Eastern opinion.

CHEKIANG NOT GONE OVER TO SOUTHERN PARTY

No Cantonese Forces in Hangchow But Apparently Within Twenty Miles of It: Railway to Hangchow Reopened: Gen. Chen Yi in Full Control: Never Left The City At All: Shantung Soldiers in Nanking

MARSHAL SUN'S MEN ADVANCING ON HANGCHOW

Reported to be Coming to Shanghai Himself: Troop Movements to Chekiang: Naval Defence of Shanghai: Southerners' Scientific Propaganda

SATURDAY.

The railway, telegraph and telephone communication with Hangchow which were suspended a couple of days ago, have now been restored to normal. The railway service is being carried on a through basis and nothing out of the ordinary has been happening since its resumption.

Many are inclined to think that the talk of the "capture" of Hangchow is mere bluff, "bunkum," as some describe it. The Cantonese troops did not capture Hangchow nor were they anywhere near the city, and the probable cause for the recent alarm was due to the fact that 50,000 and more Allied "soldiers" inside the city were carried off their feet by a surprise propaganda attack on the part of Kuomintang agents. It is possible that the Southerners used the same tactics as were adopted in connexion with the capture of Kiukiang.

Conditions at Hangchow are not as serious as has been believed in some quarters for the past three days in Shanghai, if reliable information emanating from official circles, both Chinese and foreign, can be believed. The Shanghai-Hangchow Railway line was re-opened yesterday, following the repairs made by the troops of Marshal Sun Chuan-fang, and telephone and telegraph communication was restored to normal.

The vanguard of Marshal Sun's forces are said to have pressed on beyond the dismantled bridges near Chienjiao and last night were believed to be on the outskirts of Hangchow awaiting further developments.

Another ray of hope was held out for the forces of Marshal Sun when it was ascertained that the third Division, the principal fighting force of the Chêkiang Provincial Army, numbering about 10,000 men, had not gone over to the Cantonese, but were still maintaining their independence. It was previously thought that the subordinates of General Chen Yi, commander of the division, had revolted against their leader's decision to stay by Marshal Sun. This appears not to be the case, and it is said that General Chen is still in Hangchow.

It is reported from one source that the main force of the Cantonese are now stationed about ■ miles below Hangchow and awaiting developments. But our Hangchow correspondent gives their distance as not less than 80 to 100 miles according to report and even this is most uncertain, as it is known that the Cantonese Government at Wuchang are not disposed for further adventures in the east until they have consolidated their power and collected some revenue to make good the heavy cost of their campaigns in Kiangsi.

The number of troops of Marshal Sun which have approached to the outskirts of Hangchow are said to be between 3,000 and 4,000, all excellently disciplined men.

Conditions in Hangchow yesterday were said to be quiet and no alarm is felt for the safety of foreigners or Chinese civilians in the city. Both sides seem to have come to a standstill awaiting the outcome of negotiations.

ALLIED ARMY LEAVING HANGCHOW

No Cantonese Nearer Than Lanchi: Desire to Keep Them Out

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Though the situation has changed since this was written, its evidence of the position on Tuesday is important.

There were then no Cantonese anywhere near Hangchow and the tone of our correspondent's letter suggests that the declaration of independence is rather a neutrality movement than a swing over to the South.

Hangchow, Dec. 14.

The First Chêkiang Army received a sudden summons to strike camp. To-day, they have been on the move, and the whole city has bustled with excitement. The water front at Nansingyino presented a lively scene as the cannon and munitions were being hauled to the boats. The men were in good mood and spoke gleefully of the trip they were about to take. Their destination is Ningpo.

Fortunately, for the past two days, we have had exceptionally heavy rains, for this time of the year. The populace have been kept in doors and open panic has been averted. The Shanghai trains have arrived on time. To-day's express was somewhat delayed in leaving the city station, on account of the unexpected rush of passengers, who were fleeing to Shanghai for safety.

It would seem that the authorities are making the way clear for the advent of the Southern Army. One thing is certain—a unanimous desire, that there should be no clash of arms in or around Hangchow.

Many of the agents of the Southern Army, it is said, are already here, and it is common rumour that the advance guard has already reached Lanchi. Reports have also come to hand that several cities on the Chientang River have been officially notified to prepare accommodation in the temples, schools and churches, for the men and officers of the Red Army.

Another rumour has it that the gentry and officials of Hangchow are preparing $1,000,000 in order to buy off the Southerners from entering the city.

HANGCHOW ALL IN THE DARK

Rumours of Red Army Coming: Propagandist Circulars

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

In view of later events the rumours of the Red Army's advance have to be read with some reserve. The "Military tracts" mentioned might be no more than the usual propaganda of Red agents.

Hangchow, Dec. 15.

"We are in the dark" said a station official this afternoon. The express, for Shanghai, left at the usual time this morning, with a crowded freight, and was back again within three hours at the Central station. The Northern soldiers are at Changan, at which place it appears, some sort of a stand is to be made. The express was turned back from that point. As for Hangchow and vicinity, apart from military activity, everything seems to wear the usual peaceful aspect. Ricsha men seem to be reaping a big harvest. It is an amusing fact that there seem to be about as many ricshas rushing in one direction as there are coming in the opposite direction. For the most part they are loaded down with household goods and chattels. A casual glance at the faces of the occupants proves they are "nervy" and naturally follow the psychological freak of skipping out of the place where they happen to be at the time of hearing the first whisper of danger.

All motor service has been commandeered by the military and rushed to Fuyang. It is said a large part of the Red Army has already arrived at that point. Motor roads now connect this long stretch of country and link up the main road to Kashing. It is said the Southern Army will not pass through Hangchow City, but be transported by the motor route with utmost speed right to the defences of the Northern Army, around Linping and Changan.

"Military tracts" emanating from the Committee of the People's Army are now being sent out broadcast. It is an exhortation against panic for "The Republican Army has arrived in Hangchow for the special purpose of saving the people and the country." "Merchants; Workmen: Scholars: keep to your job and give a hearty welcome to your army: There'll be no fighting here, so keep calm."

News from the Chientang speaks of the occupation by the Red Army of all the towns. Chapels, Gospel halls, Roman Catholic churches and foreign residences are being occupied by the troops. By doing so, the men are just following out military orders.

Dec. 16.

Everything is going on as usual and excitement not so tense.

SEMI-PANIC AT KASHING

Gentry Fear Looting and Students Fear Slaughter by Northerners

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Kashing, Dec. 16.

First heavy rains followed by steady drizzle has impeded the movements of the Northern soldiers to some extent. The exodus from the city continues of all civilians who can possibly get away. All coolies and nearly every able bodied man that ventures out, are impressed for military. Women and children with rolls of bedding and such clothing as they can carry are streaming out in all directions. Those who have money, go to Shanghai if they can get standing room on trains. Others take boats for near-by cities and towns. The yet poorer walk to country places through the mud. Nine tenths of the shops and banks have closed their doors.

What is feared increases in the telling:—First, the attitude of Northern soldiers. They may if defeated, rob the rich and, kill or abuse students and others suspected of sympathy with the South. Kashing gentry, failing to raise as much as expected in money, are departing in various directions. Students are practically all gone. Clerks and workmen are hiding. Country boats do not dare to come within two miles of the city, and discharge their passengers and luggage on canal banks.

Second, if fighting continues in succession from Hangchow towards Shanghai, this city, being on the railway and Grand Canal, will be in the path of all the troubles that follow moving armies.

Third, if the Northern soldiers are successful and capture Hangchow and then try to hold the province, the further re-inforcements coming in will likely be exacting to an unknown extent.

Fourth, the railway, already interrupted or only used for soldiers magnifies occasion for further rumours, reduced to one train per day for passengers to and from Shanghai. There are no trains now for Hangchow, and the railway is reported cut at or near Linping.

Fifth, the absence of authoritative news allows local rumours to distort everything seen, heard or imagined. Here are specimens:—

(a) Northern troops bottled up at Kashing for slaughter.
(b) Northern soldiers prepared to escape by boats if railway is closed.
(c) Northern men will defeat Chêkiang at first, but be driven out by Canton.
(d) Break down of authority opens way for looting to begin, etc., etc.

ALL PEACEFUL NOW IN HANGCHOW

Cantonese Invasion Myth Finally Exploded: Chen Yi in Control

MONDAY.

Hangchow is reported quite peaceful. Our correspondent in that city brings his report down to last Friday (on which day according to some local papers the Cantonese were in full possession) and reports the city quiet, except for the flood of propaganda.

Even the report that the Cantonese were at Fuyang 20 miles south of Hangchow is now exploded.

No doubt the Cantonese are threatening Chêkiang from Kiangsi—this would explain the continued movement of Marshal Sun's troops from this province—but it may be doubted whether they will attempt anything serious until they have consolidated their power in the Middle Yangtze.

According to the latest messages received from Hangchow, peace and order prevail and Gen. Chen Yi, the Civil Governor who was said to have fled when Hangchow was rumoured to have gone over to the Cantonese, is still in charge. The report that he fled is quite incorrect. Gen. Chen remained at his post all through the crisis. Gen Han Kiang-yu and his brigade have been moved forward from Changan to Chienchino, a couple of stations away from Hangchow, and within striking distance of the Chêkiang provincial capital.

The railway, telephonic and telegraphic services continue to be run on a normal basis and it is not anticipated that they will be interrupted again for the time being.

The report that the Southerners are in possession of Fuyang, a town along the Chientang River 20 miles from Hangchow, appears as incorrect as all the other stories of their doings in Chêkiang. They have, in fact, never been in Fuyang. The Chinese press say that Gen. Chow Feng-chi's 3rd Allied Division, has been bought over by the Cantonese but whether they will form any serious fighting strength or not is a matter for doubt as they have, it is said, had but little fighting experience. Neither they nor the Cantonese invaders of western Chêkiang have very large supplies of ammunition.

Marshal Sun Moving to Shanghai?

The Chinese press was full of rumours during the week-end that Marshal Sun was transferring his headquarters to Shanghai. This it was said was due to a decision reached by the Allied Command that it would be better for Marshal Sun to relinquish his hold on the Lower Yangtze in favour of the Shantung Tupan, Gen. Chang Chung-chang, and devote his energies towards stemming the Cantonese invasion of Chêkiang and the Shanghai district.

In this connexion a report reached us from what should be a well informed source that Marshal Sun had notified the managers of the Commercial Press, Ld., in Paoshan Road that he must commandeer the handsome library building, which was erected opposite the company's works a year ago, to make use of it as his headquarters.

All these reports, however, have to be taken with reserve. There are plenty of Cantonese propaganda agents in the town whose whole business is to disseminate reports calculated to excite opinion antagonistic to Marshal Sun.

Continued Movements of Troops

Movements of troops continued during the week-end, most of these men being tranferred southwards along the Shanghai-Hangchow-Ningpo Railway. Three armoured cars belonging to Gen. Chen Yi, Civil Governor of Chêkiang, have been brought there for the use of Marshal Sun's artillery.

Among the troops on the move was noticed the 13th Regiment, under the command of Col. Wang Yah-chih, the removal of which means that only a few thousand men are left stationed at Lunghua and Woosung Forts at the present time. We understand, however, that Tupan Lu's entire 2nd Division is to be brought here for protectionary purposes.

A telegram was received by the Chinese press from Hangchow on Saturday to the effect that an important conference was called on that afternoon by Gen. Chen Yi, the Civil Governor, when a number of military, commercial and educational leaders were present. What decisions were reached, the telegram did not say, but mention was made of the fact that the conference was called to discuss the situation and determine what action should be taken. A circular telegram will, the message adds, be despatched in a couple of days time.

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According to the Chinese press Gen. Tao, director of the Shanghai Arsenal, has been ordered to instruct his men to work overtime in order to rush the output of ammunition. Also, from the same source, the General Labour Union is protesting against alleged orders which Marshal Sun is said to have lodged with foreign merchants for the supply of munitions.

Naval Defence of Shanghai

The "Eastern Times" says that four cruisers, the Haichou, the Haiyung, the Yungchi and the Yingjui, together with five torpedo boats, the Huchun, the Hupeng, the Hunew and the Huying, have arrived at Woosung under orders from Admiral Yang Shu-chuang, the Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese Fleet, for the defence of Shanghai. A representative has been sent to Tsingtao to confer with Admiral Pi Shou-chen, Governor of Tsingtao and Commander-in-Chief of the Pechihli Fleet, who is one of Marshal Chang Chung-chang's chief subordinates, on questions relating to the despatch of the northern gunboats to Shanghai.

Nanking, Dec. 18.

Marshal Chang Chung-chang arrived here to-day and held a conference with Marshal Sun Chuan-fang.—Reuter.

FLOOD OF PROPAGANDA IN HANGCHOW

No Sign of Southerners and All Quite Calm

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Hangchow, Fri., Dec. 17.

Simultaneously with student gatherings and conferences, the city has been well flooded with sheet tracts denouncing Sun Chuan-fang and the policy of the northern war lords.

The virtues of the Southern Army are being brought well before the general public. Strange to say, with the approach of the Red Army, Hsia Chao, or at least his name, has mysteriously become luminous with resurrection halo. A wireless, it is said, was picked up here in Hangchow, yesterday, to the effect that Hsia Chao was immediately leaving Japan with his retinue and was expected to arrive on the scene of his former jurisdiction. We wait and see.

Last night a train was made up for Shanghai. It was banned by military orders. This morning, however, the usual trains left: also the noon express. At 6 p.m. the railway telegraph informed the public that none of the trains had reached Shanghai. One had reached Kashing and the other two had been held up somewhere on the line.

The outward appearance in the town, both in respect of commerce and official activities, leads no one to imagine anything out of the usual is happening. To-day, tension is certainly easier.

CHEKIANG'S CRISIS EXPLAINED

Local Leader's Tale of Attempted Raid by Pro-Southern General

MONDAY

Mr. Chu Fu-chang, Speaker of the Senate and one of the leading spirits of the Federation of the Three Provinces of Kiangsu, Chêkiang and Anhui, was interviewed by a representative of the "North-China Daily News" on Saturday afternoon when the Chêkiang situation was discussed.

Mr. Chu said that to one outside the political arena the situation in Chêkiang must appear wholly mysterious and it was necessary to obtain an insight of the conditions prevailing and the different political forces at work. The latter could be divided into three sections, *viz.*, the Southerners at Changshan, the Chêkiang forces in the vicinity of Hangchow, and the Allied troops stationed along the Shanghai-Hangchow Railway and the Kiangsu-Chêkiang borders.

Kiangsi-Chêkiang Border

The Southerners' main forces, Mr. Chu said, had arrived at Changshan, a town on the Kiangsi-Chêkiang border, about 500 *li* by water, and 300 *li* overland, through mountain passes, from Hangchow. Owing to poor means of communication and the lack of sufficient junks to transport troops down the Chientang River, the Southerners found it difficult to come down river to join hands with Gen. Chow Feng-chi, the Allied general who commands the 3rd Division and who is said to have deserted Marshal Sun Chuan-fang and accepted the rank of commander of the 26th Nationalist Army. Gen. Chow is at Fuyang, in which town the Southerners propose to establish their Chêkiang headquarters if they actually get into the province. Until they join hands, there will not and cannot be any actual fighting.

Attempt that Failed

Continuing, Mr. Chu said that Gen. Chow had definitely expressed his attitude and had circulated a telegram (which had been censored by Gen. Chen Yi, Civil Governor of Chêkiang) to the effect that he would adhere to the wishes of the people and perform his duties for the Kuomintang and the country. During the recent scare regarding the capture of Hangchow, Mr. Chu said, Gen. Chow and two regiments, accompanied by a small band of Cantonese in mufti, actually entered the city but, upon seeing that they had too small a force to cope with the large number of loyal allied troops, it was decided to withdraw and avoid any risk. Gen. Chow then withdrew to Fuyang to await the arrival of the main Cantonese force.

"Of course," Mr. Chu explained, "It was not against the Allied forces alone that they would have to fight, but against the Shantung-Fengtien forces as well, so no action will be taken until the southerners arrive at Fuyang. On the other hand, the Allied troops are being posted along the Hangchow railway in large numbers and the Shantung troops are drifting incessantly into Nanking."

In view of such conditions, he said, war was inevitable and he was inclined to think that the first clash would take place, not around Hangchow or along the Shanghai-Hangchow line, but near Changchow, on the Shanghai-Nanking Railway. Hangchow might be taken as a route station but not as a base, as the city was open to attack from all sides.

Federation and Southerners

Questioned as to the attitude of the Federation towards the Southerners, Mr. Chu said that when the Southerners secured the upper hand in the province they would no doubt enforce what was called the Kuomintang Self-Government Plan, which in some respects differed from the Federation's aims. So long, however, as the Government was in hands of the Chêkiang people, no matter whether it was in the hands of the Kuomintang or any other party, and looked after the welfare of the people, the Chêkiang people would have nothing to complain about. The Federation could formulate no plans until the war was over.

Marshal Sun, he concluded, has blamed the people of Kiangsu and Chêkiang for being disloyal to him. It was true, they were, but Mr. Chu could not see how they could be otherwise. Had Marshal Sun helped them instead of selling himself to Mukden and Shantung, the people would have remained his friends for ever.

Mr. Chu finally denied that he had been appointed Civil Commissioner of Chêkiang and laughed at the reports to that effect in the Chinese press.

SHANTUNG TROOPS IN NANKING

Considerable Apprehension: Northern Pickets Parade City

Nanking, Dec. 18.

Shantung troops have now crossed the river and are massed here in considerable numbers and Northern pickets are parading the streets. The troops include some 120 Russians who are billeted at an hotel outside the city wall.

It is reported from an apparently reliable source that the China Merchants str. Kiangshun, which left here tonight with 3,000 Shantung troops on board, is destined for Wuhu. There are five other China Merchants' steamers in the harbour and about six others.

The general impression is that Marshal Chang Chung-chang's troops are replacing those of Marshal Sun Chuan-fang. It is thought that the latter will proceed to the defence of Shanghai and Hangchow.

Local Chinese appear to view Marshal Chang Chung-chang's arrival with considerable apprehension and this is evidenced by the deserted appearance of the city.—Reuter.

Southern General Enters Foochow

Foochow, Dec. 20.

General Ho, with six Russian advisers, entered Foochow yesterday. He intends leaving shortly for the front, leaving the government of the province in the hands of a committee of seven. The situation remains quiet.—Reuter.

SHANTUNG COMMANDER AT NANKING

Marshal Sun's Troops Disappearing: Anhui Tupan Arrives

Nanking, Dec. 21.

Marshal Chang Chung-chang and his Shantung troops are still in Nanking.

Marshal Sun Chuan-fang's troops are disappearing gradually.

The Governor of Anhui, General Chen Tiao-yuan, arrived here to-day and will confer with Marshals Chang Chung-chang and Sun Chuan-fang.—Reuter.

Adherents Disgruntled

Hankow, Dec. 20.

The coercive attitude of the leaders of the Revolutionary Forces and officials of the Administrative Department attached to the 8th Southern Army including Comrade Borodin and Mr. Teng Yen-ta towards General Tang Seng-chi's troops has become more and more marked. For instance, not only the 8th Division of General Tang's troops was reorganized and incorporated into the Revolutionary Forces some time ago, but General Liu Yen-tao has recently been dismissed from the post of the Chief of the Administrative Department of the 8th Army.

General Tang Seng-chi left here on the 17th on the pretext of inspecting the battle fronts. General Tang's destination is unknown.—Toho.

CANTONESE MARCH INTO CHEKIANG

Leaders at Fuyang: Travel-worn But Well-Behaved

Hangchow, Dec. 20.

In these days of uncertainty, there is at least one reliable fact which can be recorded of Hangchow, and that is, peace reigns supreme. Another undeniable fact is, the Southern Army is marching into the province, from Kiangsi via Yushan, in three or four divisions, separated by an interval of some three or four days. The fixed policy of this army, in entering a town, seems to be that of first commandeering Christian places of worship, and foreign residences are by no means exempt from this unprincipled intrusion. An official notice is pasted on the door specifying the number of troops to be quartered within. There are instances, where missionaries have remained, that their private quarters have not been requisitioned. Two towns, through which the troops pass, are quickly and thickly placarded with all kinds of anti-foreign and anti-Christian posters. It is estimated there are about 10,000 men to a division.

News from Lanchi confirms the report that by the 17th instant two divisions had already passed through. The 3rd division will most probably have reached there by now. For the present these troops are concentrating in Yenchow, Tongtu and Fuyang, which latter place is distant from Hangchow some 20 miles.

ILLUSTRATING WHERE THE CANTONESE ARE BELIEVED TO BE AND THE ROUTE TO HANGCHOW

Officer's Politeness

The Cantonese troops, on reaching Lanchi, made no exception to their rule, and forthwith occupied the Chapels, and the premises of the Christian Schools. An officer waited upon the Missionaries there and insisted, though with marked politeness, in inspecting the foreign residence. He was so polite that he carefully wiped his feet on the door mat before entering to make his survey. After a casual glance in some of the rooms, he waved his hand and said, "No, we won't come here." He was very definite in his assurance that no harm would be done and no fear need be exercised. During the succeeding days, the rank and file were likewise good in their behaviour and kept within bounds. Besides the occupation of chapels and schools, almost every house is used as a billet.

Most of the men of the 2nd Division, arrived in Lanchi soaked to the skin. Many carried heavy burdens and showed signs of fatigue; being foot-sore, they could scarcely hobble. A large portion of the army came by boat, but the roads also were thronged, and the martial tramp resounded far and wide. Officers rode on horses. The forced march, as with the men, left its impress upon their visages, too, for both alike, looked weary and forlorn.

Disagreeable Souvenirs

Apparently, little inconvenience or unpleasantness has been experienced during the sojourn of these unwelcome guests. One thing however, will never be forgotten, and that is the filth left behind in the places they occupied The comment is—"It is simply indescribable." Placards have been stuck up everywhere and epithets, far from complimentary, have been chalked on almost every available wall space.

Before being lined up for the forward journey, the various sections are addressed by their officers. The present political situation is first retailed, then follows a general exhortation to good behaviour and, lastly, a reminder of steadfastness in view of the coming struggle.

In and around Hangchow, business seems to be brisk. The railway communications are open and the river traffic is resumed. To political questions the general answer given is—"Wait and see."

KASHING MORE AT EASE

Special Arrangements to Feed Troops: Chinese who stick Duties

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Kashing, Dec. 21.

The city is recovering from the panic of December 15-16. It seems that the District Magistrate with a few representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the Local Self-Government Societies and others, after strenuous efforts, arranged to supply the military authorities with rice, salt-vegetable and fuel. Nearly half market price is paid in cash, the balance in notes.

Proclamations are out, urging merchants to do business, and boats to run as usual. The doors opened and mail and passenger boats have resumed schedules. The soldiers are behaving very well, so far, no looting or other disturbance is reported. On the railway, trains do come and go, but time-tables are flexible.

Throughout the excitement of more than 10,000 soldiers coming, going and camping here, the Customs, postal, telegraph, telephone and electric light services carried on steadily. There are Chinese who maintain a high sense of duty under stress and strain.

MARSHAL CHANG TONES DOWN

Less Vainglorious and Attentive to Good Advice

FROM RODNEY GILBERT

Peking, Dec. 10.

A Chinese gentleman who has long been intimate with Marshal Chang Tso-lin, but who had not seen him for a year or more, recently returned from Tientsin where he saw much of the Fengtien leader, to announce that the latter was a much altered man. The responsibility which the Red menace has forced upon him is said to have rendered him much less vain, opinionated and talkative. He listens intently and patiently to the advice of anyone whose opinion he respects, but makes little comment. A more significant change still is his newly developed interest in the study of Chinese. With a competent instructor and with the standard Chinese histories as his text books, he spends all of his spare time reading—presumably looking for helpful precedents in China's past.

Marshal Chang's assumption of office as chief of the Ankuo Chun is equivalent to the assumption of a dictatorship over all of China not yet occupied by the Cantonese or the Kuominchun. As the monarchists point out with pleasure, he is *de facto* King of Liao, whether he likes it or not. Yet this has not aroused resentment in the North, but has rather given the populace here a sense of security.

Marshal Chang For Peking

Peking, Dec. 21.

Well-informed persons expect Marshal Chang Tso-lin to come to Peking before the week-end, the Tupans of Kirin and Heilungkiang having arrived here this morning to make all the necessary preparations.

In connexion with the Marshal's visit, the reorganization of the Cabinet with Mr. Chin Yun-peng as Premier is predicted by the "*Hsung Pao*," which anticipates that Dr. Wellington Koo will remain in charge of the Waichiaopu with Mr. Pan Fu as Finance Minister.—Reuter.

FENG YU-HSIANG AND MOSCOW POISON

His Old Friends Dismayed by the Change in Him

FROM RODNEY GILBERT

Peking, Dec. 17.

The Cantonese leaders are completely indifferent to the movements of Fengtien and Shantung troops:

Recently it was widely reported that Marshal Feng Yu-hsiang had refused to see his chaplain-General, the Rev. Goforth, at Paotou, and

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had repudiated the Christian faith, a story, which, according to reliable missionaries has been exaggerated.

Old missionary friends are still personally received with seeming cordiality, but they find that Feng Yu-hsiang has been saturated by the Moscow virus and is unable to comprehend anything but a rabid anti-foreign points of view. The results is that his Red affiliations are no longer belittled by his former foreign advisers here.

FENG YU-HSIANG'S MOVEMENTS

Kuominchun Successes in Honan: Two Towns Taken

Peking, Dec. 19.

According to apparently reliable Chinese reports from western Honan, Marshal Feng Yu-hsiang's forces continue to make progress and have captured Lingpao and Kuanyintang; and the Wu Pei-fu adherent, General Chang Chih-kung, has fallen back on Mienchih and Hsinanhsien, the latter place being only 25 miles from Honanfu.

Hitherto there is no news of the Fengtien forces entering Honan with the object of preventing the capture of Chengchow and the linking up of Marshal Feng Yu-hsiang's troops with the Southerners, though very strong forces of Fengtien troops are undoubtedly concentrated on the southern border of Chihli.

While the Kuominchun continue to advance eastwards in Honan, they are retreating in the north from Wuyuan on Ninghsia and from Paotouchen on Yulinfu; and Fengtien cavalry, under General Wan Fu-lin, is following them.—Reuter.

THE CAMPAIGN IN HONAN

Fengtien Forces to Resist Feng Yu-hsiang's Movement

Peking, Dec. 20.

Marshal Chang Tso-lin has appointed the Peking Garrison Commander, General Yu Chan, as commander of the Ankuochun reinforcements to Honan. This indicates that the Mukden authorities have finally decided to send troops into Honan. Large forces have been massing on the Chihli-Honan border for some time, but, in view of the Kuominchun advance into Western Honan and the failure of Marshal Wu Pei-fu to check them, an actual Fengtien advance towards Chengchow appears to be setted.

Pressed Men Killed by Cold

Dec. 20.

According to a Consular wire from Kalgan the military authorities there recently impressed a number of coolies on the streets and sent them westward by train, apparently for labour with the army. Owing to the extreme cold 300 of them froze to death *en route*, their corpses being returned to Kalgan.—Reuter.

LIFTING THE SIEGE OF SIANFU

Description by a Soldier Participant

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Hwaiking, Ho., Dec. 9.

Following is a report of the raising of the siege of Sianfu by a wounded soldier who took part in the engagement.

On November 27 the engagement began. Liu Chen-hua found trouble in one of his brigades in the nature of mutiny, and as the trouble developed it threatened to effect a large section of his command. It was found that secret propaganda had stolen the loyalty of his men. He issued orders to attack but when he was confronted by the Kuominchun his troops would not attack. Division of the Kuominchun came and raised the siege of Sianfu and Liu Chen-hua had to retreat back to Tung Kuan with whatever of his troops wished to remain loyal to him. He is now in difficulty at not being able to retreat towards Honan because the Wu Pei-fu general in charge of the Loyang district will not permit of Liu Chen-hua retreating into his territory.

The plan of the Kuominchun, as reported, is to follow the Yellow River between Shansi and Shensi and proceed toward Honan, and preparations are being carried out to this end.

Liu Chen-hua, according to the soldier who gave us this report was wounded by a steel bullet in the head. He walked overland seven or eight days to the nearest hospital. The red cross facilities in the army being inadequate to care for the wounded, even though there was not any very severe fighting. The Kuominchun are amply supplied with ammunition for the present but it is doubtful if they are sufficiently supplied to warrant a campaign all the way into Honan province. Their clothing and equipment otherwise is equal to a winter campaign.

FORMIDABLE FORCES AGAINST SOUTH

Bei Bao-san Pushing Troops Down to Pukow: 150,000 from Tsinanfu

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Haichow, Ku., Dec. 15.

At a farewell dinner given in his honour last night General Bei Bao-san talked freely of the coming campaign, and as he only confirmed what has been commonly known for over a week by the whole community no confidence is being violated in relating the gist of what he said.

Sixteen Trainloads of Troops

He has already sent forward 16 trainloads of troops and is still sending them at the rate of two or three a day. These trains go to Huchowfu and thence to Pukow, making the run in 26 hours. The General will himself leave during the latter part of the week and his present destination is Changchow. General Bei was frank enough to say that he had no idea whether he would ever return to Haichow or not, saying rather laughingly that he might be back for New Year dinners, or—and he left the sentence unfinished. But having used our eyes and ears, there is no denying that he has cleaned up very thoroughly and his soldiers are carrying away their full camp equipment, down to bed boards and stools. All families of soldiers and officers have long since been given a chance to go to their old homes and most have taken advantage of the opportunity.

As the last papers received have been full of sensational Southern successes, it was natural to expect that General Bei would discount them. He had seen the same papers but declared that the information he had privately received over the wires contradicted a lot of it. Specifically, his information was that General Chang I had not surrendered in Poochow but was still fighting: that the Canton troops had not made any advance over the Peking-Hankow Railway to Changchow (where the Lung-Hai crosses the Peking-Hankow line): that it is true that Feng Yu-hsiang's army had reached the far western tip of Honan, but that the Christian General himself was still far up in Mongolia.

Sun to Operate Against Fukien

General Bei gave no figures as to the number of troops that Chang Chung-chang is sending south, but it is positively believed by the men who are ordinarily best informed that the Shantung Tuchun is sending down no less than 150,000 men. The same source informs me that Marshal Sun is to conduct the campaign against Fukien and southern Kiangsi and Chang Chung-chang is to assume the offensive, with Kiukiang as his first objective; that the latter's forces will split at Pengpu where the T. P. R. crosses the Huai River, part going overland and part going on to Pukow and up the Yangtze. A glance at the map will show that his programme, if carried out, will be a formidable threat to the Canton forces, and if Chang Hsueh-liang carries out his advertised campaign down the Peking-Hankow line, the opposing forces will have abundant opportunity to test each other's mettle.

HOT-HEADED SPEECHES IN HANKOW

Extremists Striving to Neutralize Efforts of Moderates by Proclaiming Renewed Campaign Against Britain: Sun Fo's World War on Imperialism

The following telegrams should be read in conjunction with today's leader on page 577 in which it is pointed out that the extremists, fearful of the prestige which the moderates are likely to gain from Mr. Lampson's visit and the new British proposals, are striving to regain the ascendancy by fresh appeals to mob passions.

Hankow, Dec. 21.

A meeting was held last night attended by 3,500 delegates from many associations, both civil and military.

The platform was occupied by representatives of every section of the Cantonese Government.

Seven persons spoke, including Comrade Borodin, Mr. Hsu Chien, Comrade Sun Fo and Madame Sun Yat-sen.

Comrade Borodin declared that the revolution was only half through but the half that remained was the most important: it was the overthrow of the British and "their ally Chang Tso-lin and the Fengtien Party. When this is accomplished the country will be peaceful and prosperous. I have come to give my assistance towards the accomplishment of this purpose."

Mr. Sun Fo then spoke. He said: "Many believe that the British are friends of China. This is a mistake. For decades they have played off one Chinese party against another and have continued to stir up strife every time the Chinese people have made a step towards gaining their freedom. Their Minister has been here with sweet words but his heart was sour. The British are working behind our backs in order to destroy us.

The Boycott Weapon

"The only way to combat this is, first, a complete boycott of everything British. This must not only apply to the purchasing of goods but to all branches of industry. The British are dependent on Chinese assistance in 90 per cent. of their business. That assistance must be withdrawn, from the coolie who unloads their ships to the agent or compradore who purchases their export cargo. Secondly: the British have constantly perpetrated acts of atrocity and forced themselves on China, owing to our ancestors' fear of them. We, the Kuomintang, have no such fear and we are resisters of this wanton aggression. All the people must be ready to act with us at the next insult offered us by the British, and the labourers and the Army must combine to drive them out from our country.

The Communist Touch

"Thirdly: the object of this meeting is to explain that we have made arrangements with our brothers in India and other places, of which the British do not dream, to rise with us when we give the signal. When the signal comes their vaunted King will be in the same position as ours. All other Kings will follow and our work, which is revolution of the world's workers, will be accomplished."

The Political Bureau has contributed $12,000 for anti-British propaganda work and for furtherance of the plans for a boycott.—Reuter.

Newspaper Hate

Peking, Dec. 23.

Though the British Memorandum has not yet been published, the Kuomintang organ, the "People's Tribune," without waiting to learn its actual contents, shows a determinedly irreconcilable attitude towards friendly overtures. The paper says: "We state categorically for the Nationalist movement that the proposals, though dubbed by professional apologists for British Imperialism as the 'most liberal hitherto proposed,' are utterly unacceptable. If this is the best Britain has to offer, we can understand perfectly well the necessity its Foreign Office feels of rushing all the naval forces it can spare from its other fields of imperialistic exploitation to that which it seems determined to retain and expand at any cost here in China.

"The net results of the new offer will only be the intensifying of the already bitter attitude of our people towards their relentless imperialist foe."—Reuter.

KUOMINTANG ARRESTS IN TIENTSIN

Letter to British Minister: A Kuominchun Statement

We are asked to publish the following letter sent to the British Minister with reference to the recent arrests of members of the Kuomintang in Tientsin:—

H. E. Miles W. Lampson, C. M. G., M. V. O. c/o British Consulate-General, The Bund, B. C. Hankow

Dec. 17, 1926.

Dear Sir:—I beg to call your attention to the statement given by the British Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in the House of Commons on December 13 with regard to the arrest of 14 members of the Kuomintang.

He said that at the time of raid the British Municipal police did not know that the premises were the headquarters of the Kuomintang, nor did any of the arrested persons claim to belong to the Kuomintang or to be political refugees. The handing over of the prisoners to the Chinese police, he said, accorded with the settled policy of the British authorities in China, that Chinese by the mere fact of residence in a British Concession should not in any way be sheltered from the jurisdiction of their own authorities.

On behalf of the Kuominchun, which is nothing else than the Kuomintang in the North by our declaration of last September, I like to convey you following points.

It disappoints us greatly to learn that the British police there should have no knowledge of the Kuomintang headquarters. Since the British authorities in Tientsin have identified those 14 persons they should take the responsibility to get them back in accordance with international laws, which are the laws observed by all respectable nations of the world. Their responsibility in this respect is none the less important than to get British subjects back in case of their being illegally arrested by authorities of other nations.

Regarding the second part of the statement of the Secretary, please be informed that the Kuomintang has headquarters in every city and every Concession. Therefore in future, should any authority under present Peking Government send your authorities request similar to the Tientsin incidence, please consult Kuomintang headquarters in case of Kuomintang members, and also please write me in case of Kuominchun members. This will be the only way to save both sides from embarrassments.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours respectfully,
P. Poo
Representative of the Kuominchun

FOREIGNERS LEAVING KULING

Patients in Community Hospital Being Evacuated

A lady resident of Kuling who arrived in Shanghai late last evening, reports that foreign residents have been advised by the British Consul to leave the resort as early as possible, as he is unable to guarantee their safety if they remain longer. The place is entirely in the control of the Southern troops, who openly boast they will soon take over all the foreign business houses and residences.

The patients at the Community Hospital were being evacuated, and it is expected these and other residents will reach Shanghai within a few days.

ICHANG COMPLETELY LOOTED

Foreign Property Untouched But Business Suspended at Chengteh

Hankow, Dec. 21.

A wireless message just received from Ichang states that the city has been completely looted by soldiers. Foreign property, however, so far has not been touched.

Foreign Traders Squeezed

Dec. 21.

Several firms which have branches at Chengteh received telegrams this morning stating that all foreign business there had been suspended owing to a military tax of Tls. 30,000 being demanded.—Reuter.

AN INCIDENT IN HANKOW

Soldiers' Endeavour to Pass Through Concession Stopped by Marines

Hankow, Dec. 21.

An unpleasant incident was narrowly averted at 10.30 this morning when 300 Chinese soldiers tried to march through the Concession along the Bund.

The soldiers were stopped at the British Consulate barrier by marines. A large mob of coolies urged the soldiers to force their way through. A corporal of marines patrolling outside the barrier was attacked by four soldiers and fell back to the barricade. The marines lined the barricade and as the soldiers loaded their rifles they loaded their machine-guns, at which the soldiers dispersed.

A mob is still near by, jeering at the marines.

It is understood that the local Chinese authorities have tendered their apologies to the British Consul.—Reuter

FRENCH NEGOTIATIONS WITH MUKDEN

Rumours of Chinese Request Loan by Instalments

FROM RODNEY GILBERT

Peking, Dec. 17.

Many erroneous surmises regarding the negotiations between France and Marshal Chang Tso-lin's Government have been current here for the past two months, including the false report of the granting of a concession for coal to the French within the Chinese Eastern Railway zone, but it is now believed here with apparently better reason that the negotiations concern the rehabilitation of the Russo-Asiatic Bank as "The French Asiatic Bank."

It is reported on reasonably good authority that the Chinese have proposed that the French should make a loan to Fengtien out of the Boxer Indemnity due, to be made in instalments over a period of five years, the instalments for the first two years to be devoted to the suppression of Bolshevism in China.

The Chinese have asked the French to telegraph this suggestion to Paris and it is now locally reported that Chen Lu on November 3 telegraphed a French conditional endorsement of the terms of the loan asking, *inter alia*, for the extension for ten years of the Annam frontier trade regulations of 1886.

Dec. 20.

The Sino-French negotiations concerning the rehabilitation of the Russo-Asiatic Bank are altogether unknown to bankers and the liquidators here. It is consequently surmised that the proposals emanated from the Paris office, which is not in communication with the Far Eastern branches, or else from Chinese in search of a loan.

NEW MINISTER AT TIENTSIN

Visit Paid to Marshal Chang Tso-lin

Tientsin, Dec. 22.

Mr. M. W. Lampson, the new British Minister, arrived here from Pukow this morning and visited Marshal Chang Tso-lin this afternoon, after which he left for Peking.—Reuter.

TRAINS RUNNING ON T. P. RAILWAY

Reported Suspension Owing to Military Transportation Denied

Peking, Dec. 22.

In connexion with the reports that the Tientsin-Pukow service has been suspended owing to heavy military transportation, the railway authorities now state that trains are running daily and complete interruption is not expected.

Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang has organized a corps of military inspectors to patrol the Peking-Hankow and the Peking-Suaiyuan Railways.—Reuter.

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THE CHINESE SITUATION TO-DAY

Nationalism Versus Militarism: Where the Old Diplomacy of the Powers Is Still Blind: Futile to Blame Soviet Propaganda

By Dr. Hu Shih

The following article, from "The Friend" is by a man who is often spoken of as "the father of the Chinese renaissance." Dr. Hu Shih is, nevertheless, not much more than 30 and is at present in England as one of the Chinese members of the Commission on the British Boxer Indemnity.

It is high time for the European public to study the Chinese situation realistically and not to be misguided by mere newspaper labels. For many of the labels have no basis in real facts and are likely to lead the reader to an erroneous interpretation of what is actually going on in China to-day.

It is the generally accepted terminology in the English papers to call the Kuominchun (Nationalist Armies) and the Southern Armies by the name "Reds," and to designate all the other military groups by the name "Anti-Reds." This is untrue in the light of history.

When the civil war broke out a year ago last October, both Sun Chuan-fang and Wu Pei-fu were fighting against the Mukden Group. All their public declarations were severe attacks on the misrule of the Mukden militarists in the provinces of Chila, Shantung, and Kiangsu. And Sun Chuan-fang's first move was a rapid march on Kiangsu, driving the Mukden armies first from Nanking and then from Hsuchow. There was at that time every possibility for a combination between Feng Yu-hsiang and Wu and Sun in their joint effort against Mukden.

But unfortunately, there had existed a personal animosity between Wu Pei-fu and the Kuominchun leaders. The betrayal of 1924 by Feng Yu-hsiang which had caused Wu's downfall was never forgiven. Even Feng's decision to retire from the active command of the Kuominchun was not sufficient to bring about the contemplated co-operation between Wu and the North-Western Army. Personal differences finally prevailed, and Wu Pei-fu, who had started the war with an anti-Mukden slogan, actually entered into an alliance with Mukden and turned their joint forces against the Kuominchun. And for lack of a better slogan, they called themselves the Anti-Reds! And the credulous public, too, gradually came to believe that the issue was a fight against Bolshevism!

But when the Kuominchun ordered their retreat from Peking and its vicinity, and when the so-called "Anti-Red" armies triumphantly marched on the capital, the eyes of the public were soon opened. The Kuominchun retreated in the most orderly manner, and the whole army, as it were disappeared before the people ever realized. Not a bowl of water was demanded of the villages through which the retreating troops passed. They had fully carried out one of their mottoes written on their armlets: "Do not disturb the people." If there were "Reds," then, it was indeed no crime to be red!

But the Anti-Reds, especially under Chang Chung-ch'ang, were certainly a detestable lot! They looted every village and committed all sorts of crimes. And half a million refugees flocked to Peking in the months of April and May, to escape from those soldiers who were supposed to save China from the dangers of Bolshevism!

A Tribute to Canton

Then the Southern (Cantonese) Army appeared on the scene. In the course of a few months they have conquered Hunan, Hupeh, and parts of Honan and Kiangsi. Szechuan seems to have also joined the Southern forces. Wu Pei-fu has met defeat at the hands of the newly arising enemy, and his downfall appeared to be complete. This Southern Army is also called "Red." As an impartial observer, however, I may point out that, as far as we may judge from the reports of competent judges who have visited Canton and studied the situation there, we must concede that the Canton Government is the best, most honest, and most efficient administration in the whole of China. Of these recent visitors to Canton, I may mention Mr. Lewis Carnett, an editor of the New York "Nation," and Mr. G. E. Sokolsky, whose reports on Canton were published in the "North-China Daily News," the most influential British paper in Shanghai. A latest visitor, a son of an American Bishop, tells me that he saw in the Canton Government the real hope of a regeneration and rejuvenation of China!

It is this new power that is now making its appearance in Central China and in the Yangtze Valley. There is nothing Red about this new army: its sole object is "the establishment of a united stable government in China for the protection of the country against the threat and oppression of the Imperialistic Powers and for the suppression of all militarists who are ruining the nation."

Southern Organization

Some months ago, I told some supporters of the Canton *régime* that any premature military expedition against the north might divert too much of their energy and resources and might be detrimental to the constructive efforts in the southern provinces. But the events of the last few months seem to show that the southern campaign against the north was not so premature as I had supposed, and that it appears to have all the possibilities of a sweeping success.

This success is not only due to the inherent weakness of the Northern Opposition which has been made sufficiently manifest by the failures of Wu Pei-fu in Hupeh and Sun Chuan-fang in Kiangsi. But the Southern Army owes its success chiefly to its superior discipline and organization. The Canton leaders have learned from Soviet Russia and through Russian advisers, the importance of political organization and discipline in the army. The army is an organ of the Kuomintang Party which is in complete charge of its political as well as its military training. Every unit of the army is under the joint direction of the military commander and the party representative, and every soldier is drilled in the ideals of the party as well as the necessary discipline of the military kind.

For the first time in the history of China, there has arisen a Revolutionary Army trained in the modern military arts, and inspired with modern nationalistic ideals. If ideals alone were no sufficient inspiration, this new army has its selfconfidence firmly planted in the repeated successes which it has had during the wars against Chen Chiung-ming and against the Yunnanese armies. Every time this new army, under the banner of "Student Army of the Huang Pu School," fought against enemy forces which outnumber them by many times, and they always won easy victories. And the downfall of the veteran Wu Pei-fu once more renewed their youthful confidence.

Sun Chuan-fang's Position

This new power had one ally and two opponents. The ally is Feng Yu-hsiang, whose army is now moving southwards through Shensi and will probably soon effect a junction with the Southerners somewhere along the Peking-Hankow railroad. The two opponents are Mukden and Sun Chuan-fang.

Events have shown that the position of Sun Chuan-fang is shaking. He is probably the most intelligent of the militarists of the old school. But he is not a man of ideals or of political vision. He claims to rule over five large provinces, at least two of which are exceedingly unreliable. In time of war, and in the absence of modern means of transportation, such a vast area is impossible to defend. Kiangsi has been partially lost (wholly by now —Ed. "North-China Daily News." And Chekiang, the native province of Chiang Kai-shek, the Commander-in-Chief of the Southern Armies, has declared its independence. (Not Yet—Ed). At present, peace mediators are moving to and fro between Upper Yangtze and Lower Yangtze. Sun Chuan-fang will either turn an ally of the Southern Nationalists, or remain neutral and try to maintain his own hold on what is left of his five provinces. A third alternative is his downfall and elimination.

Mukden's Strength and Weakness

The truly formidable opposition is the Mukden Group. But that crowd is divided, and Chang Tso-lin is incapable of uniting all the contending factions. Its strength is further weakened by two other factors: the financial difficulty through the rapid depreciation of the Mukden bank-notes and through the heavy monthly military expenditures, and the absence of able generals since the death of Chiang Teng-hsuan and Kuo Sung-lin. Nevertheless the Mukden power is formidable because of its numerical superiority, its possession of a powerful modern arsenal, and its easy access to up-to-date munitions. If Mukden should ultimately fall, its fall must be brought about through internal desertion and rebellion, which in the light of last year's rebellion of Kuo Sung-lin, is not an impossibility. Moreover, the history of the civil warfare of the past 10 years has shown that victory has always come to the side that is more popular with the people. While history may not necessarily repeat itself, it seems highly improbable that a military group which has, during the past years, literally incurred "the wrath of Heaven and the curse of Man," should once more emerge triumphant.

Whence the Russian Attraction?

I started out to present an "impartial" analysis, but I have given what must seem to many an undeniable partiality to the Southern cause. I shall not deny it. One must choose, and as a non-partisan liberal, I choose deliberately to sympathize with the Southern faction as undoubtedly the best and most modern group of all the contending forces. And I predict and welcome its ultimate success. It has been repeatedly pointed out that the Canton Government is under the influence of Russian advisers. There, again, is a question of choice. The Southern leaders have simply preferred Mr. Borodin to the "Old China Hands." And they have certainly as good right to trust Borodin as Yuan Shih-kai had in using Professor Goodnow or as the present Peking Government has in employing Sir Francis Aglen.

It is, however, an undoubted fact that the younger generation in China to-day is more willing to listen to the appeals of Soviet Russia than those of any other nation. But is not that fact itself enough to make the European statesmen pause and think? Why are the Chinese youths so easily moved by the Russian appeal? Is it not because the Russians came to us not only with a high sounding ideal, but also with a definite policy backed with energy and material assistance? Has any European Power ever offered us a constructive policy sufficiently appealing and sufficiently concrete to command the emotion and imagination of the Chinese youths? Or have the European Powers ever come to any agreement in any constructive policy towards China beyond that of drifting and muddling through?

It is very well to say to China: "Put your own house to order, and you shall have your rights back." I for one shall not retort with the usual sophistry that "we cannot order our own house when the Imperialistic Powers are backing our reactionary forces." But I do hope, and hope most earnestly, that the wisdom and statesmanship of Europe may before long realize the undeniable fact that those special privileges and rights are there as monumental testimonies to Imperialistic aggression and Chinese humiliation, and they are there as hotbeds for the breeding of international hatred and anti-foreign resentment. It is futile to blame Russian propaganda when these antiquated treaties and concessions are stubbornly maintained by European statesmanship and diplomacy to stand there as concrete and irrefutable evidences of the truth of that propaganda!

RAILWAY TRAVEL IN WAR TIME

Correspondent's Experiences on the Peking-Hankow Railway: Generals Who Will Not Use Sidings: Tedious Waits and Struggles for Places

From a Correspondent

Two months ago I travelled from Peking to Yencheng, Honan, and two days ago my wife and another lady arrived at Yencheng after making the same trip. As our experience on these trips may be of interest as an index to present conditions, I give a short account.

On both trips the journey on the so called 'express' was made in comparative comfort, the attendants on the train being courteous and obliging. Travelling, however, is very slow, and the engines cannot supply steam for heating the carriages.

On both trips the engines broke down completely after passing Paotingfu. When I was travelling, the engine driver protested at Paoting that he could go no further, but was told he must do the best he could as no other engine was available, though there were several standing in the yard, each requisitioned by some general or another for his private use. We waited for 12 hours before another engine could be brought up from Shihchiachuang, and completed the trip to Chengchow in just under 48 hours.

When my wife was travelling, the 'express' was detained for several hours waiting for the Chihli governor's train to move, which it eventually did after having blocked all traffic on the line at that point for several days. No other engine was available when their engine broke down, but after waiting 24 hours an 'ordinary' came along, and their train was coupled on to this, reaching Chengchow 64 hours after dispatch from Peking. Time-tables in to-day's paper still advertise this train as running through to Chengchow in 17 hours, and then going on to Hankow, though the line has been broken south of Hsinyangchow for several months now.

At Chengchow seven of the nine tracks available for through running are held by standing military trains, so there is endless delay in getting into the station, as the two remaining tracks have to take all the cross traffic between Honanfu and Hsuchowfu, as well as that north and south and provide in part for shunting also.

There is ample room for all the military trains on the sidings at Chengchow, and they could be moved from these with as much ease as from the main tracks, but presumably it would be beneath the dignity of any of these jostling "big hats" to have their particular train on a siding, and so forsooth the main running tracks must be occupied and the platforms turned into a camping ground.

While I was at Chengchow this time to meet my wife, a train from Honanfu to Hsuchowfu was waiting for 26 hours outside the station, before a track could be cleared for it to go on its way. Needless to say only through passengers stay on the trains. Those coming to Chengchow get off and do the last mile or so along the line on foot.

The "ordinaries" seem to be running both north and south about once in three days though there is no fixed time. The ignorance of the staff as to the movements of trains, whether feigned or real, is colossal. When the trains do come in they consist of a few very decrepit third class coaches gathered from various lines. Windows there are none; a few seats remain; and the luggage racks seem to be fairly intact. The rest of the train is made up of a collection of trucks of every description gathered from every imaginable railway connected with the Peking-Hankow line.

These too are in a deplorable condition of disrepair and dirt. The employees on the line have lost all heart, and there is no opportunity to repair or cleanse the rolling stock even if the desire to do so existed, for as soon as one crowd disgorges itself and even before, another fighting crowd forces its way on to the train. Small blame to the waiting crowd either, for it may have been waiting there for two days for this chance. Everyone finds a place and settles in on his luggage, but as the train may wait anything up to two days before an engine can be found to take it on its return trip, the claims staked out by all except the military joy-riders are more and more encroached upon as the pressure increases with the oncoming crowd.

Only a soldier can hold on to his original claim and even he has to yield a part to comrades in arms of larger calibre. Long before the train starts, outside platforms and carriage roofs are crowded; cold travelling these days.

When I travelled down alone from Chengchow to Yencheng two months ago, I arrived some hours after the train had got in from the south. However I managed to secure the corner of someone's box to sit on, and a place where I could "touch bottom" with my feet, but I couldn't move. I thought we were full up then, but at Hsüchanghsien at midnight about 20 more soldiers got in and squeezed them into the crevices or spread themselves out on top of us.

Going up to Chengchow to meet my wife I could not get in a carriage or truck at all, so travelled outside in the sleet and snow. Fortunately we made a quick trip, and I did not have to spend a night on the train.

Returning again with my wife and her friend, I managed to get their luggage in a corner of a carriage before the pressure was too great, and with the help of two men held my own against all comers for several hours. Then the work became too difficult and I had to send for them to come. They waited on the train from 1 p.m. on Saturday till 3 a.m. Sunday before an engine was forthcoming and we made a start. Two hours travel carried us 13 miles, and then according to precedent the engine gave out, and we had to wait till 1 p.m. for another engine. 5 p.m. found us another 47 miles on the way at Hsüchanghsien.

The country to the east of Yencheng is infested by brigands many thousands strong. They are in process of being incorporated into the Honan army, but in the meantime must live. This, and the general peaceable disposition of the Chinese soldier probably explains why with something like 200,000 soldiers in Honan, a large number of whom are in the railway zone, no less than three of the stations between Hsüchang and Yencheng have been raided with impunity within the last few weeks. So now no trains travel on this section at night. As it was getting dusk when we arrived at Hsüchang we had to spend another tedious night on our luggage, and made a new start at 7 a.m. Monday, arriving in at Yencheng just after noon. Including the wait on the train at Chengchow, it had taken us 52 hours to cover some 100 miles.

Most of the passengers were soldiers on leave, and with a few exceptions were a coarse foul-mouthed set of men. There were a few unfortunate business people trying to get home from somewhere.

All suffered together, though the soldiers always got the best of everything going. Occasional maledictions were hurled at the train the unfortunate engine driver and everything connected with the railway, with an entire disregard of the fact that the railway has been brought to its present lamentable condition by the soldiers themselves but on the whole the uncomfortable congested crowd was wonderfully patient and good-humoured. Gloves are evidently in great demand, two out of the three in our party having theirs stolen. We felt thankful, however, to get through without more serious loss.

When we left Chengchow on the 12th instant, fighting was in progress between Tungkuan, which has fallen to Kuominchun, and Shanchow which was held by Liu Chen-hua's men. In spite of repeated newspaper reports there were no signs of Chang Tso-lin's men coming through either from the north or from Hsüchowfu.

Conditions here at Yencheng are pretty bad, the bandits killing and carrying off captives actually within sight of the soldiers stationed at the railway, with not a finger moved to stop it. Life in the country to the east is simply impossible for the poor people.

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BRITISH LOANS TO CHINA

Very Substantial Value Received by the Country at Low Rates of Interest: Question of Secured and Unsecured Loans

The following memorandum on British loans to China is issued by the Tientsin British Committee of Information:—

China has raised on the London market in the course of the last 80 years by means of long-term loans approximately 50 millions of pounds sterling of which about 36 millions are still an outstanding debt. These loans were raised by the sale of Chinese Government bonds issued at or very near parity at rates of interest varying according to the state of the market but mainly between 4½ per cent. and 6 per cent. and ranked for many years in the estimation of the British public as an essentially solid class of foreign Government investment.

One of the consequences of the present disorder in China is that a considerable portion of these issues has fallen into default. The loss of income to British bondholders is great and steadily increasing while, regarded from a national point of view, the defaults mean a reduction in the national income from overseas investments with a corresponding adverse affect on the balance of trade as well, of course, as a loss of income-tax revenue.

Nature and Purposes of British Loans

A clear comprehension of the nature of the British loans to China is desirable not only on account of the extent of the British interests at stake, but also to remove certain not uncommon misconceptions arising from failure to distinguish between different classes of Chinese foreign loans. An important item in Bolshevistic propaganda against the so-called imperialist nations in relation to China is the charge levelled at China's foreign creditors of being exploiters and instruments of political aggression, the loans being represented as one-sided transactions forced upon a helpless country to the detriment of its general interests.

Whatever grounds may or may not exist for such an imputation in the case of some other loans, an analysis of Great Britain's contribution to Chinese finance will show little British financial transactions are deserving of such a charge.

The amount of China's national debt has yet to be determined. Nor is it easy to arrive with any certainty at the figure of her foreign indebtedness. That portion of the latter, however, which excludes the indeterminate mass of Provincial obligations, responsibility for which is not recognized by the Central Government, and which also leaves out of account the Boxer Indemnity, may be roughly stated in the round figure of £150,000,000 sterling.

Of this indebtedness, the figure of which is all that is required for the purpose of this paper, the sum of £85,000,000 is usually classified as secured, and the balance some £65,000,000 as unsecured or inadequately secured. The category of "unsecured" loans includes Government indebtedness for the purchase of rolling stock and other material required for the maintenance of works of public utility.

Security of Foreign Debt

When one speaks of of the secured portion of China's foreign debt it must be explained that the security in question is good so long as trade continues and the two great revenue producing departments of the Government, namely the Customs Administration and Salt Administration, are allowed to operate without interference and the government railways to function commercially. The so-called "unsecured" debt consists of obligations with no guarantee of payment from a specified source of revenue or else secured on revenues, which being free from any foreign supervision, have become entirely unavailable.

Before proceeding to deal with the British loans a word is needed regarding the Boxer Indemnity which was imposed by the Powers on China after 1900 to pay for the damage to foreign lives and property perpetrated by the Boxers. Of the original amount of 450 million Haikuan taels at fixed exchanges representing the equivalent of 67½ millions sterling, nearly half (Russian, German and Austrian shares) was cancelled as a result China's entry into the War. The balance, less about £6,000,000, has been remitted to China by the principal Powers including Great Britain. In order, however, to give a just impression of Great Britain's financial relationship with China, it may be permitted to remark that of the Boxer Indemnity Great Britain's share was 11 per cent. only In view of the importance of British interests, as reflected by various criteria not least the fact that more than half China's trade at the time was in the hands of Great Britain, it may be wondered whether British sufferers received a just share of compensation. No useful purpose would be served by going into ancient history but this at least may be said in evidence of the spirit which has animated and still animates British sentiment for China.

Although part of the Russian indemnity, 29 per cent. of the total, may have been due to material losses, generally speaking the remarkable disparity between the British share and that of most other Powers was accounted for by the different views of their duties taken by the Indemnity Commissioners of the different nations. Whereas the British Commissioner, applied the strict rule of English law in the matter of recoverable damages, other Commissioners took a more liberal view of the measure of compensation to which their nationals were entitled on recommencing business after such an outrage. It cannot be said, therefore, that the transaction evidenced any desire by the British Government to exploit China in the interest of its nationals. Not only was the sum not an exaction but in fact it fell far short of a full indemnity so far as British interests were concerned.

Great Britain's Share

Turning to that part of China's secured indebtedness, represented by foreign loans amounting to £85,000,000 sterling of which Great Britain's share is £33,000,000, those contracted by China with British banks and financial syndicates have been of two main classes.

(1) Fiscal, *i.e.* loans for debt consolidation, such as those contracted in connexion with the War Indemnity due to Japan after the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-5, pending payment of which Japan held strategic points in China, and for the reorganization of Government finances in 1912-13 after the revolution 1911 which gave birth to the Chinese Republic.

(2) Industrial or productive, *i.e.* for the construction and development of Government-owned public enterprises such as railways.

In the outstanding British secured debt of £33,000,000, these classes are represented approximately in the following proportions:

Fiscal { War Indemnity 23 per cent. / Financial reorganization 37 per cent. } 60 per cent.

Industrial, Railways, etc. { productive } 40 per cent.

Earlier Fiscal Loans

The earlier fiscal loans, and subsequently the Boxer Indemnity, were specifically secured on the only source of Chinese Government revenue then available for hypothecation, namely the Maritime Customs, which—since the great Taiping Rebellion in the middle of the 19th century—has been placed by the Chinese Government under the administration of an international service organized by the late Sir Robert Hart.

The efficiency of this service, staffed by Commissioners of Customs and subordinates of many nationalities in the various Treaty Ports, has enabled the Chinese Government to keep faith with bondholders of loans secured on this source of revenue; and so long as the collection and control of Customs revenue by these foreign employees of the China Government is not interfered with there is no ground for questioning the safety of loans issued on this security. It may be added that in offering the Customs revenue as security for the loans mentioned above, the Chinese Government gave an undertaking in the contracts that the administration of the Customs Service should remain as constituted until the final repayment of the loans which is due to take place 17 years hence.

Crisp and Reorganization Loans

When the later fiscal loans were made after the Revolution of 1911 the Customs revenue, which had naturally suffered considerably from the disturbance of the country, was judged to be incapable of carrying further charges, or at least that it would have been unsafe to rely entirely upon it. A fresh source of revenue had to be tapped to provide security for the new loans. This was found in the Salt Gabelle, which for this purpose was re-organized by the Chinese Government with foreign assistance in the manner described in Memorandum No. 10. Under the efficient administration created by Sir Richard Dane the Gabelle produced a revenue exceeding all expectations and provided the Chinese Government with three times the amount needed for meeting the annual loan charges. But so large a proportion of this revenue is now being seized by provincial authorities and local military commanders (for a period in the Spring of the present year the remittance of revenue to Peking ceased altogether) that the loans solely dependent thereon have a very uncertain future.

As the British "secured" fiscal loans depend largely on the Chinese Customs revenue for their payment, it is well to correct a very common misapprehension to the effect that the Customs revenue is monopolized for the payment of China's foreign debts. The latest figures show that out of a net collection of about 90 million dollars per annum, about 40 million dollars are going to the service of the foreign, and 35 millions to the service of the domestic debt. Less than half of the net revenue is thus absorbed by the foreign loans.

Railway Loans

The industrial and productive loans are in a still worse plight. Their specific security is for the most part the earnings of the enterprise concerned. In the case of railways, while financiers of some of the other powers followed a policy of obtaining railway concessions, *i.e.*, the privilege of constructing, owning and operating for their own profit railways in Chinese territory (*e.g.* the Russians and Japanese in Manchuria, the Germans in Shantung and the French in Yunnan), the British participation in railway development in China took the form of lending the necessary capital to the Chinese Government for constructing railways of its own. As China lacked railway experts (engineers, traffic managers or accountants) in the Western conception of the term, the British negotiators required, so far as possible, that qualified British employees should be engaged by China to fill these posts in the interests of efficiency and that until the loans were repaid there should be an element of control exercised by the British personnel over the expenditure and earnings, sufficient at least to ensure that interest and sinking fund payments would be duly met.

For many years the results of these arrangements were satisfying. China, incapable of raising capital from Chinese sources, was furnished with long distance lines of railway well built and equipped with British material which carried an ever increasing volume of passenger and goods traffic and yielded net revenue not only amply sufficient to pay the interest and sinking fund charges due to the British bondholders but also handsome surpluses for the Chinese Government. These benefits China, unlike other similarly conditioned countries such as the South American Republics, obtained without parting with rights of possession or management in the general sense.

How this enormously valuable asset is being brought to ruin by the prostitution of the railways to the service of warring generals and to the destructive devices of local military authorities who, besides "milking" them mercilessly contribute actively to the demolition of the rolling stock and property generally, has been described in the third memorandum of this series.

Present State of Railway Loans

From our present point of view, that of the British bondholder, the result is that on one line after another the revenue is failing and the loan going into default. In the case of some of the earlier loans the railway itself including the permanent way, is actually mortgaged as security, but it is superfluous to say that in the prevailing condition of China the right to foreclose on the properties could only be exercised with the help of armed support.

A more practical consideration for the bondholders is their further guarantee under the loan contracts, consisting of the Government's pledge to pay from their general resources whenever the revenue of a particular railway should fail to provide for its loan charges. In some cases the Government revenue from certain taxes was also specifically pledged as supplementary security. On these guarantees the bondholders are now thrown back. The present state of the Central Government's finances and control of taxation is such that their only general sources available are the revenue from the Customs and Salt Gabelle. So far from meeting any part of the railway bondholders' claims from the Customs or Salt revenues the Government is regularly pledging the available surplus of these revenues to Chinese Banks for years ahead in order to raise fresh loans for the benefit of the military party which happens to control the capital.

Railway Loans and Tariff Revision

Formal and barren notes of protest to the Chinese Government are the only means whereby the British Government has found itself able to support the bondholders' rights. If China's claim to be freed from the tariff disabilities which distinguish her from more highly developed nations are to receive satisfaction, it is a fair demand that she for her part should live up to international standards in the matter of paying regard to her contracts, and that her Government should accordingly address itself to the state of the railways and misappropriation of railway revenue and should make provision for supplying defaulted payments from the other resources given as collateral security.

Unsecured Foreign Obligations

Under this heading the figure mentioned has been £65,000,000 sterling, or perhaps a little under. There is no solid basis for calculation. Of this total the British share amounts to nearly £6,000,000 sterling a proportion of less than 10 per cent. If, therefore, it could be said of all these unsecured loans that they were made without conscience for ulterior motives and in callous disregard of the true interests of China the extent of the British participation should not involve any large share of blame.

In point of fact, however, approximately one half of British unsecured claims are in respect of trading matters and principally represent indebtedness by the railways to British firms for the supply of railway material without which the railways would have found it difficult to be in efficient operation to-day. Their honest business character is well illustrated by the classification they received at the Tariff Conference where they were classified as commercial debts.

The balance, something rather over £3,000,000 is attributable to what are known as the Vickers and Marconi Loans.

Commercial Aviation and Wireless

After the Great War the Chinese Government professed a desire to embark upon a programme of commercial aviation and wireless telegraphy. The ease, however, with which commercial aeroplanes could be transformed into bombing machines caused the British Government to regard this matter with some distrust. But in face of the solemn assurance of the Chinese Government in days before militarism had reached its present proportions, there would have been no reason why a British firm should have been denied the opportunity of legitimate business, especially when another firm, Messrs. Handley Page had already sold six passenger machines, which were exploring aerial routes in the North of China.

In respect of these two loans, the Chinese Government issued Treasury Notes, which have assigned to them as security no specific revenues but possess the general undertaking of the Chinese Government to provide for interest and repayment.

The Vickers loan provided the Chinese Government with a quantity of commercial aeroplanes and other material for building up a system of government air services. Under the arrangements for the loan a picked staff of British pilots and mechanics under a distinguished officer of the Royal Air Force was sent from England to train and organize. Though hampered by much maladministration and by the disordered condition of the country they were achieving substantial results when the entire scheme was shattered by the seizure of the aeroplanes by two of the rival provincial leaders who, profitting by the impotence of the Government, took the machines by force from the hangars at Peking and converted them to military uses.

The case of the Marconi loan was similar. By means of this loan a chain of three high-power wireless telegraph stations between the capital and Kashgar in the most distant province of China was constructed by British engineers. Contrary to their advice, the Government required the first of the three stations to be erected at Urga in Mongolia. The result was fatal as the Chinese were shortly afterwards driven by the Russians out of Mongolia and the station, an essential link in the chain, was lost almost before its completion.

In this way, owing to the incompetency of the Government and its failure to hold its own, China, instead of finding herself equipped with much needed air and wireless communications, is left with practically nothing to show for the two loans amounting to some three million pounds sterling. The debt meanwhile remains, but the Government has defaulted on the loans for several years past and has made little or no attempt to keep faith with the bondholders. At the present time, the only visible hope of a resumption of payment lies in the plans for a general consolidation of Chinese Government unsecured debt with the help of revenue from the proposed increase of the Customs tariff.

Conclusion

The foregoing analysis shows the very substantial value received by China under the British loan Agreements, value not only pecuniary but including years of service by a number of Englishmen who under the Agreements have worked as servants of the Chinese Government for the economic improvement of the country. Having borrowed no less than 50 million pounds of British money to pay off her war indemnity, recoup her finances after a revolution and equip herself with modern means of transport and communication, and having been supplied by British merchants with material for their maintenance, China, as represented by the succession of militarist-ridden Governments which have held office in Peking, is suspending payment on an ever increasing portion of the debt. Meanwhile the revenues which should be applied thereto are either vanishing through the misuse and destruction of the railways or are drifting into the hands of military commanders who dissipate them in insensate party wars.

CANTON TROUBLES WITH LABOUR

Attempt to Curb Arbitrary Activities of Agitators by Law

Canton, Dec. 16.

The Kuangtung Provincial Government, which has of late been much troubled with the arbitrary conduct of labourers, in accordance with a decision reached at a recent meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Kuomintang Party, yesterday issued an ordinance for the control of labourers. The ordinance contains the following four items:—

1.—Labour Unions shall not arbitrarily apprehend persons.

2.—Labourers shall not stage demonstrations, carrying arms.

3.—Labourers shall not close factories or shops. Nor shall factory owners or store-keepers close their factories or shops without good reason.

4.—Labourers shall not confiscate any articles in factories or shops.

The Provincial Government, explaining the items of the ordinance, stated:—

"It is the desire of the Government to protect the interests of the workers, but of late labourers of bad character, taking advantage of complications among their number, are committing arbitrary acts, which will mislead labour movements. Hence, the Government has issued the ordinance, but the ordinance by no means aims at the oppression of rightful 'labour movements."—Toho.

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LEADING ARTICLES

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A CITIZEN OF NO MEAN CITY

Dec. 20.

It is one of the amiable foibles of human nature to take a pride in believing that one is descended from good stock. Perhaps a great deal of the opposition to the evolutionary theory of the descent of mankind from an animal ancestry is due to this predilection for patting oneself on the back and indulging the comfortable thought that our ancestors were of no ignoble breed. We see this trait in the Chinese whose profoundest religious sense finds its expression in the worship of their ancestors which, if it be idolatry, is idolatry of a praiseworthy kind. The penniless Scot "wi' a lang pedigree" is another instance that comes readily to mind. His forebears may have been highland caterans who made an honest living by plundering their neighbours, but he swaggers through life with the insouciance of one in whose veins runs the blue blood of a Howard or a Cecil. Even our democratic cousins from the other side of the Atlantic spend no small part of their holidays in Europe in tracing the noble ancestors from whom nine-tenths of them had their origin. They secure a brick from the ruins of the baronial halls where once the chieftain of their race held sway and proudly exhibit it in their much more palatial residences in Texas or Nebraska. It is very amusing but also very human and we, who are still attached by unbreakable ligaments to the land of our common birth, sincerely trust that the supply of bricks will never fail. Not one of us but would be willing to offer a substitute from our own ancestral hearth—provided we possess such a luxury—rather than see our kinsmen disappointed. It is only a sentiment, but such sentiments do us honour and we are both pleased and proud to recognize its existence.

These thoughts are brought to mind by the perusal of a book that has recently been published in London on "Roman Britain." We received the impression from our schoolbooks that our British ancestors, in the days before the Roman invasion, were barbarians who had neither art nor civilization and that the history of our islands began with the irruption of Julius Cæsar and his legions into our country on the 25th day of August B. C. 55. The learned author of this book disabuses our minds of that misconception. He has been traversing the land with a spade and a notebook and he gives us some very startling results of his investigations. The inhabitants of Britain, he says, had been civilized for at least 1500 years before the coming of the Romans. The bronze weapons of that early period were magnificant and in no way inferior to those that have been found in the tombs of Egyptians of the same date. He instances a beautiful dagger, with a hilt of red amber inlaid with gold. Toilet articles such as razors, mirrors, ointment pots and even rouge for colouring the cheeks of the ladies have been found, and countless necklaces, jewels, hairpins and other articles of personal adornment have come to light.

A new reason for Caesar's invasion of our shores has been suggested. He was a superb horseman, graceful swordsman and an incorrigible wooer of fair women. When he informed the Romans that he contemplated an invasion of Britain they suspected that he was embarking on this adventure because he knew that good pearls were to be found there and he was in the habit of giving pearls to his lady friends! Well, history records worse reason for going to war than this. Anyway, the resistance he met with was so stubborn that about the middle of September he had had enough of fighting and embarked his troops and sailed back to France where in the Gallic wars he had stormed 800 towns, subdued 300 tribes and killed a million men.

The Britons of those days were traders as they are at present. Coins of Carthage dated 200 B. C. have been found. Also Greek or Etruscan vases and Egyptian beads. The author states: "In upper Egypt I, myself, dug up a vase dating from 1,200 years before Christ, made of tin, which might well have come from Corwall." And so the forgotten history of our land unrolls itself before us. The earliest glimpses we get of our forefathers show them to us not as painted savages but as civilized men who tilled their fields and traded to the far distant marts of Phoenicia and Egypt. Their chiefs wore linen tunics and brilliantly coloured cloaks. They carried swords by their sides and when they met the disciplined Roman legions they either conquered or died gloriously where they stood. And we may take to heart the words of a great Englishman of our own day. Sir John Seeley says: "I tell you that when you study history you study not the past of England but her future. It is the welfare of your country, it is your whole interest as citizens that is at stake when you study history." And the more we know of our country's great past the worthier we shall be able to live in what seems to us, but only to us, the drab routine of our daily lives in this port far distant from her shores.

THE WISDOM OF WAIT AND SEE

Dec. 21.

THE recent scare of a Southern *coup* in Chêkiang is another example of the advisability of taking civil war news with a very large pinch of salt. While the majority of papers in Shanghai were declaring that the Cantonese troops had marched into Hangchow and taken possession, no Cantonese soldiers were nearer than Changshan on the western, Kiangsi, border of Chêkiang, and it is open to doubt whether there are any, at least in force, even there. Of course, with the railway cut, anything might happen; and on Thursday some of the best informed people in Shanghai believed that Hangchow had gone over to the South. Even this proved untrue and on Friday railway and other communications were open again between Shanghai and Hangchow. The defection of the 3rd Division does not add much to the odds against Marshal Sun Chuan-fang, as this is the division which betrayed him at Kiukiang. The remainder of Chen Yi's forces are loyal, as is the Civil Governor himself. The exact course of events is still obscure in some points. But there appears no doubt that General Chen Yi, influenced by the powerful provincial autonomy party and probably with Marshal Sun's acquiescence, as it would suit the latter well enough to have a buffer state at his back, was trying to secure from both parties a pledge of the neutrality of Chêkiang. The pro-Southern party seized the opportunity by means of a flood of propaganda to endeavour to swing the whole provincial machine over to the Cantonese side. The rest of the story was sheer panic.

And panic, be it remembered, is what the extremist always works to produce. In this atmosphere he finds conditions most favourable to his aims and there can be little doubt that he calculates as much on stampeding foreigners as Chinese. There is, perhaps, no greater danger at the present time than that the foreign Powers and even the foreign communities in China may act too hastily, under complete misapprehension of the powers and parties with which they are dealing. Since Mr. Lampson went to Hankow and conversed with Mr. Eugene Chen, the general feeling seems to have improved. On the heels of this visit comes the intelligence from Peking that the Diplomatic Body are considering a scheme of "liberal and far-reaching proposals" with regard to China. Obviously it would be absurd to attempt comment on proposals of the bearing of which we have yet no knowledge. But the adjectives employed cannot but excite misgiving at the present time. We are as anxious as anybody to be liberal and far-reaching towards China. But we wish first to know what China it is to which liberalities are to be extended. Is it to be the North or the South, either or both? In what shape and form are these twin powers to be accepted? And what guarantee has anyone that they will keep their respective shapes and dimensions, and, if so, for how long? To make proposals until there is some certainty on these points seems, to say the least, premature.

There is a further consideration. Already there are symptoms that the foreigner and his position in China have become a side issue in the greater matter of the struggle between the Kuomintang and the old school militarists. If the foreigner were the principal object of the Southern campaign, why were not the threat to Hankow and the general strike as then forecast pushed to their conclusion, as they could easily have been? It may be said that the Southerners did not care to jeopardize their enterprise by forcing an issue at a minor point, where, although temporary success would have been easy, defeat would have been easy too. But that appears to us a superficial view. The truth is, we believe, that the wiser heads among the Cantonese know perfectly well that to destroy foreign trade and interests in this country would neither pay China in general nor themselves in particular. It is China they are after and for the time being the affairs of the foreigner can wait. In fact we believe that the most far-sighted of the Kuomintang would be glad to stop the boycott, because they are greatly in need of funds and the revenue from foreign trade is a most important consideration to them. If they ultimately establish their power throughout the country, we may be sure that they will turn their attention to the foreign question and, as we have repeatedly said, no well-founded and united Government of China, which shows itself ready to accept the responsibilities as well as the privileges of power, is likely to find the foreigner unreasonable. But it has yet to be seen how far the Kuomintang can go. They have much to offer to their fellow-countrymen. They are a party as distinct from the old "one-man" rule of the Tuchuns, with all the intolerable misgovernment it entailed, from which, moreover, any change might seem welcome. But can they overcome the deep-rooted antipathy of Northerner for Southerner? Can they even rely on the unity of their own confederacy, including, as it does, the proud and independent Hunanese, to whom even the masterful Tsze Hsi never presumed to dictate? Can they control their own extremists and, as they say they will do, sheathe the sword of revolutionary propaganda when it shall have served its turn? These questions time alone can answer, but until there is some certitude about them the only safe policy for the outside world is to maintain the watching attitude it has so long held, with careful neutrality.

THE NEED OF OPEN DIPLOMACY

Dec. 22.

THE "Times'" comments, as reported in our telegrams yesterday, upon the British proposals for a new policy in China will be cordially welcomed by the British community in this country. After deducing that "the British Government has taken the initiative in an attempt to reduce all the promises and principles of the Washington Convention to a very simple issue—practical recognition that modern Chinese nationalism is a fact and many of its claims are entirely legitimate," the "Times" goes on to stress the intolerable nature of the situation, in which Great Britain finds herself "blamed vehemently, persistently and exclusively for a state of affairs for which Britain least of all is to blame." On the contrary, the "Times" quite truly says,

"British policy is the most liberal hitherto proposed and goes much the furthest in practically recognizing the legitimate demands of Chinese nationalism."

A highly important and timely reference is made to "the hampering attitude of other nations on British policy owing to the necessity of keeping in line with them." And the "Times," we are told, "rejoices that Britain's restraint and seeming passivity have been abandoned."

So, too, will others rejoice. But have that restraint and passivity truly been abandoned? Something more is needed for proof of so glad a change than the enunciation of proposals which may never get beyond the murky walls of Peking because the Minister of Pafiagonia has not been empowered by his Government to give his all-important approval. If Great Britain's projects for this country are to bear fruit, there must be no more of the old, timorous, secret diplomacy. For that way lies only sterile disappointment. Let us go back a little in recent history. Mr. Lampson, undoubtedly sent to Hankow with freer hands than any British Minister has enjoyed for many a day, spent nine full days there, continuing his conversations with the Nationalist representatives almost up to the moment of departure. There is no doubt that these interviews were of a friendly and promising nature. Simultaneously with the Minister's departure for Peking comes the news that the British Chargé d'Affaires has laid before the Diplomatic Body specially assembled, proposals for a certain line of policy in China of a liberal and far-reaching nature." It is impossible not to connect this news with Mr. Lampson's conversations in Hankow; nor is it going too far to believe that these proposals are such as to give practic l expression to the feeling of cordial friendship for China which Great Britain has so often proclaimed and of which her long forbearance under great provocation and injury has been proof.

How long must it be before these proposals are publicly stated? Why cannot they be known now? Is anything to be gained by secrecy; rather, is there not a danger of much being lost? There certainly is, if there be any truth in the report that diplomatic opinion in Peking is not unanimously favourable. How often has it ever been? We would not, however, stress this phase of the situation. What we would urge most earnestly is that Great Britain has every right, and even a duty, to take her own line,—as the "Times" puts it, to abandon restraint and passivity. For over a year and a half she has, in the common phrase, been "made the goat." Not a soul has stood by her, not a finger has been lifted in her defence against most unjust accusations and attack. Some would seem to have made indecent haste to profit by her ill-fortune. And she has borne it all with unequalled patience, seeking only to prove to the Chinese people that her friendship is not abated and confident that their own good sense would in due time rise superior to the animus of a minority. This record, combined with the fact that British interests in the Far East still largely outweigh those of any other Power, gives her the right to speak out freely and to act as she thinks best even if she speaks and acts alone. There is no earthly practical reason why she should not do so. She took the lead in recognizing the Chinese Republic fifteen years ago and she may equally take the lead to-day. Actually we do not imagine there is yet any question of recognition. But to put an extreme case: supposing there is a question of a Customs surtax. There appears no good reason why Great Britain should not openly announce that she was ready to let it be charged upon her goods and, if the collection were entrusted to the Maritime Customs, as we believe Canton wishes it to be, to give instructions to the Inspectorate-General accordingly.

This brings us to the last consideration, namely, that if the support of the British community for the new policy is desired—and we do not for a moment suggest that the Government thinks of ignoring us—it is but fair that we should know what that policy is. We would go further than that. So long have we in China waited for action of any kind, while the Foreign Office seemed to be blown about by every wind of doctrine, that the relief of knowing that the long weariness of inactivity and uncertainty was at last over would, we believe, ensure support for the new policy beforehand, if we might be sure that it would be carried out firmly and consistently. But let us know what it is and let there be no more waiting about for co-operation from outside, which is as unnecessary as it is only sure of being uncertain. So much is due to Great Britain and to China.

CHRISTMAS AMONG THE BLUEJACKETS

Dec. 22.

A considerable number of people in Shanghai, when overburdened with the good things of the festive season and having members of the Navy among their acquaintances, have in years past been in the habit of contributing their surplus to men-of-war in port, naturally selecting the ship aboard of which they had an acquaintance. Thus in the days when bachelors, who probably led a club life, found themselves the owners of half a dozen hams and a turkey or two—incidentally in clubs when the turkeys are alive they are always parked in the bath—they have been in the habit of

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sending these off to some cruiser, gunboat or other craft to add to the Christmas cheer of the bluejackets. Certainly a very proper and commendable thing to do, and there is no doubt about how much the spirit was appreciated. One slight defect it had about it, that an officer, popular and moving much among people ashore, was liable to get the lion's share of these good things for his men, and the possibility was always present that the crews of boats which came rarely into Shanghai might find themselves left out in the cold. That is the sort of thing which at this season of the year one would wish to avoid.

In making these observations, we merely wish them to be considered as a preliminary to a notice of the work which the Navy League has on hand for this coming Christmas, and we believe that it will commend itself warmly to the public. The intention is that there should be Christmas cheer for every bluejacket in port, and so far as funds permit for all those on the gunboats above Hankow where there are no large foreign communities to tackle such work as the Shanghai branch is doing. Here on Christmas Day there will be a cold buffet for the bluejackets in the Union Jack Club, and we well know how that will be appreciated. Over and above this, however, it is hoped that aboard ship there shall be no lack of the real sort of Christmas fare for the Christmas dinner, and as the aforementioned bachelors have been doing in past years, so would the Navy League wish to do at this present time. And accordingly there is no reason why any apology should be made for bringing this effort to the notice of the public.

Mr. E. S. Wilkinson, Hon. Secretary of the Navy League, has taken the matter in hand, and in this as in other efforts he will have every support. Those wishing to contribute parcels are asked to send them to the Union Jack Club, 5 Myburgh Road, and a few seasonable suggestions for their contents may not be out of place. One cannot imagine a better selection than out of such a list as Christmas puddings, mince pies, sweets, apples and oranges, cigarettes and cigars, beer and mineral waters. These are the sort of things which tend to give the necessary *éclat* to the Christmas dinner of a body of men with the healthy appetite possessed by the Navy. Of course, it is not everybody who has Christmas puddings and mince pies lying about spare, but there need be no hesitancy as to their contribution to the success of the day, for cash can always be converted into similar elements of Christmas cheer. Anybody wishing to make a money contribution should do so to Mr. Wilkinson, at his office No. 2 Canton Road, and it will be equally appreciated. We have given but a bare outline of what the Navy League hopes to do to make Christmas worth while for our bluejackets in this part of the world, and we have said nothing about the amount of work involved in it to the Navy League. But those who can imagine how large it is, will be the readier to ensure its being a very great success.

THE PILOTS

Dec. 23.

WHEN Mr. F. W. Maze, at the launching of the pilot vessel Hsin Yangtze at Pootung on Tuesday last, paid tribute to the pilots who bring ocean-going vessels into, and take them out of, this port, he struck a chord which will evoke an answering note in the hearts of most people in Shanghai. After expressing the hope that the Hsin Yangtze would be a happy ship and lucky for all who sailed in her, Mr. Maze added:

"The Customs have lighted, the Whangpoo Conservancy Board has deepened the river; and lastly, the Shanghai Pilots Association has recruited and trained a very well qualified body of men to guide ships into the Harbour. I think, perhaps, the Shanghai community does not fully understand the difficulties which the pilots have to contend with; the comparative immunity from serious accidents is eloquent testimony to their nerve, efficiency and skill."

It is generally recognized, we think, that Shanghai is one of the most difficult harbours in the world, if not the most difficult, to navigate. The channel is narrow and tortuous, the approaches are dangerous, shallow, full of shoals and submerged rocks. The river bottom is ever changing, whilst local tides are treacherous and always a vital factor to be reckoned with. When we see a magnificent vessel like the Empress of Canada being brought up our little two-by-four river we cannot but admire the technical skill, iron nerve and coolness of head, which must be the attributes of the man on the bridge. The slightest slip and a great vessel is aground, the harbour is blocked, and there follows a long and weary sequence of insurance claims, inquiries and legal technicalities. Apart from the technical skill required, the average pilot's job, more especially in weather such as this, is no sinecure. To take a vessel out at night, or in the early hours of the morning, to stay on the bridge for hours at a time, and then, when his charge is safely at sea, to go through with that acrobatic ordeal known as "dropping the pilot," whatever the weather, is not particularly pleasant.

Apart from their normal duties, Shanghai's pilots on many occasions serve a similar purpose to that of the life-boat crews at Home, and with equal efficiency. The example of the wreck of the Lienshing must still be fresh in the public mind. The victims of the wreck who were picked up by the pilot vessel that came to the rescue could not speak too highly of the kindness they were accorded once on board, or the pluck and tenacity shown by the pilots, many of them men getting on in years, pulling around in open boats, with a fairly heavy swell running and in pitch darkness, looking for survivors or bodies. Their record harmonizes well with the highest traditions of British seamanship. Did Mr. Maze's tribute need endorsement, we would endorse it gladly.

FRENCH CONCESSION ROADS

Dec. 23.

THERE is nothing like kicking a man when he is down, especially when there are plenty of people on one's side to prevent his getting up too quickly. So we have no hesitation in joining in the chorus that has been raised in our correspondence columns over the evil state of the roads in the French Concession. The present writer, too, has his own private grievance over an extension westwards through a once private road, where roadbreakers appeared last July, tore down the fence, converted the private road into the similitude of a Somme battlefield and have so left it to this day. But let that pass. Mere personal interests must have no place in this column. Also it is only fair to make allowance for the difficulties which every municipal councillor knows of bringing all the demands of ratepayers within a budget that will "buckle" by any ordinary means.

But, without exaggeration, it must be said that roads in the French Concession are in a very bad state. And it must be added that in part at least this appears due to penny-wise workmanship in the first instance. Many of us remember the metalling of the Avenue Foch, which was done expressly to meet the wishes of the French Council, by the way; and many people remarked at the time that the foundations were not nearly deep and solid enough for the traffic which was to be anticipated. On these is laid a layer of water-bound macadam and then a thin coating of asphalt. The later is easily cracked; with a spell of wet weather such as we have recently had, the water seeps in; and very soon the roadway is covered with "pot-holes." The worst places in Avenue Foch have been patched up from time to time; patching is going on at the present and even before the whole work is finished some of the recently mended surface has begun to go in the old familiar way.

Much of the trouble, we venture to think, comes from the excessive outlay of recent years in opening up new roads, which leaves no money for the maintenance of the old. We say "excessive" because an afternoon spent in driving round the new roads marked out in the Concession during the past two or three years suggests that there was little need of them from a housing point of view. Already the supply of houses that sprang up to satisfy the post-war famine shows signs of outrunning the demand. The number of houses which find no tenants cannot altogether be explained by the terribly jerrybuilt nature of the new structures. Land values are naturally increased by the opening of new roads, but that is a very doubtful blessing by reason of its reaction in other directions. It will be recalled that at the last municipal elections in the Concession, three of the candidates, all subsequently elected we think, made it a feature in their programme that they were opposed to new road-making at the expense of old road maintenance. What has become of this welcome pledge? One might remind the French Council of the proverb *"Mon verre est petit mais je bois dans mon verre,"* the essence of which surely is contentment—and keeping the glass spick and span.

THE EVIL OF SECRET DIPLOMACY

Dec. 24.

GREAT Britain's scheme for a new policy in China is in danger of becoming like one of those presentations which are to be a great surprise, but about which everybody talks so much and such exaggerated expectations are formed, that the reality when disclosed is anti-climax and disappointment. Let it not be supposed from that word "exaggerated" that we know what these proposals are but may not say. We wish we did know and we submit that we and all other Britons have a just complaint in not yet being told. As we said, two days ago, there is not the slightest reason why the British Government should not speak out plainly and there is every reason why it should. When in 1908 President Taft and Mr. Knox evolved their plan of neutralizing all railways in Manchuria, at that time a bitter bone of contention between Japan and Russia, they did not wait to consult every member of the Diplomatic Body; they just published their proposal. The present affair is one of far greater importance than the Manchurian situation in 1908 and one in which far fewer scruples as to publicity could suggest themselves even to the most cautious.

The "Manchester Guardian's" comment, reported in our telegrams yesterday, is a conspicuous example of the evils of secret diplomacy in two ways. First it speaks of the "failure of the recent Commission on Extraterritoriality." In what way a failure? The Commission merely had to report and not only did it do so with praiseworthy industry and fairmindedness, but it got its report out a year sooner than it need have done. Had the report been published in full, the Manchester Guardian would have seen where the real failure lay, namely, that all the admittedly earnest efforts of the Chinese judiciary to reform the national system are wrecked by the dominance of the militarists and there is as yet no guessing when that will cease. Further left to the resources of its own imagination by the blind reticence of the Foreign Office, our contemporary sketches the supposed outlines of the British memorandum with a liberality which can only have the effect of exciting Chinese expectations far beyond what the reality will prove. It is easy for foreigners to make the necessary allowance in reading both the "Manchester Guardian's" anticipations and what the Belgian Premier is reported to-day as saying in the Chamber at Brussels and to arrive thereby at a line not too highly embroidered an estimate of what is really meant. But in this country of much rumour and vivid imagination this is not so and the result of all this regrettable secrecy will, as we said above, be anti-climax and disappointment.

In another and more serious way harm is being done. To-day's telegrams from Hankow speak of a new "boycott" meeting (probably attended by not a twentieth of the supposed numbers) with wild speeches by Comrade Borodin and Mr. Sun Fo. The inner meaning of all this is quite clear. Mr. Lampson's visit to Hankow and the conversations he there held have greatly strengthened the saner wing of the Nationalist party and the extremists are striving to assert their power. Now comes the news that Britain, so far from being the "Imperialist" and oppressor she has been painted, is about to prove herself once more the most liberal and trustful of all. Thereby the ascendancy of all counsellors of reason and moderation on the Cantonese side would be still more highly exalted. So Borodin counsels redoubled effort before the dreaded day of publicity arrives. Much the same phenomenon occurred when the Canton Government declared the boycott off. The extremists at once called meetings and proclaimed a new boycott on a larger scale. As for the frothings of one Kuomintang paper in Peking, which denounces the British proposal before knowing what it is, the motive of these is so transparent as to be almost laughable. These manifestations of spleen by a minority afraid for their future ascendancy are not to be taken too seriously yet. But they may become serious, unless the Foreign Office can be induced for once to believe that open diplomacy can under certain conditions be the only sound course.

AN OLD SLANDER ONCE MORE

Dec. 24.

A correspondent calls our attention to a letter appearing in the November-December issue of the "Review of Reviews" of London, from a Hongkong Chinese resident in London, in which "the old lie of the notice in the Shanghai Public Gardens 'No dogs or Chinese allowed' is again resurrected." Curiously enough, only a few days before this letter reached us, we had received from Home an article on "The Revolution in China" contributed by H. N. Brailsford to the "New Leader" of November 19 last. The character of the article may be imagined from the general reputation of this writer for using his undoubted talents chiefly to blacken the character of his fellow-countrymen; and further, from his description of Colonel Malone's venomous and lying attack on British policy in the Far East, as "this readable and judicious pamphlet." But what strikes one most is a picture in the middle of the page representing a Chinese being turned back from the Public Gardens by an armed Sikh, who is standing beside a large placard inscribed "No Dogs or Chinese Admitted." The picture is purely imaginary in other respects, besides the supposed placard.

But is this old slander never to be buried? On October 5, 1925, Mr. J. E. Jacobs, American Consul-in-charge at the time, wrote to the Chairman of the Municipal Council saying that he had received an inquiry from America as to the truth of this slander and asking for any information the Council could supply. To this letter the Secretary of the Council was directed to write as follows:—

In reply, I have the honour to inform you that no such notices are posted in any parks or in any other places under the Council's jurisdiction; furthermore, careful investigation reveals the fact that no such notice has ever appeared in the International Settlement.

For your information, I have pleasure in handing you herewith three photographic reproductions of notices posted in the various parks and gardens. The Council would, accordingly, greatly appreciate it, if when replying to the Dearborn Publishing Company, you would emphatically point out that such statements as these are entirely false, unfounded and unwarrantable and that their publication is strongly objected to by the Council and the Foreign Community of Shanghai.

I have the honour etc.

All this correspondence is to be found in the Municipal Gazette of October 9 last year. Since it appeared, it is only just to say that we have not heard much repetition from Chinese in the Far East, of this false and spiteful slander. One can only the more regret that some of our fellow countrymen are less scrupulous.

RANTOUL, Ill., Dec. 22:— Two military aeroplanes to-day collided in mid-air Four officers were killed. —Reuter.

GEN. Lu Hsiang-ting, Tupan of Chêkiang has tendered his resignation owing to illness, his physicians having ordered him to take a long rest.

IN a telegram to Marshal Chang Tso-lin, Marshal Sun Chuan-fang states that a warrant has been issued in Shanghai for the arrest of Yin Ni-kun, former secretary of the late Gen. Kuo Sung-lin, who revolted against Marshal Chang in the beginning of this year. It appears that Yin, after the defeat and subsequent capture of his chief, had taken refuge in the Japanese Consulate at Mukden, and had escaped from there recently to this place.

ACCORDING to the Chinese press, the Mukden and Shantung troops, who are stationed in Nanking, are still adopting the "Wait and see" attitude, and will not march toward Shanghai until emergency requires. It is said that the strength of the Allied forces along the Shanghai-Hangchow railway line and at Chang-an and Ihsing, is estimated at five divisions, and is enough to defend the province against southern invasion without the help of the Mukden soldiers.

THE occupants of a Chinese dwelling house at West Gate witnessed an exciting time with robbers on Saturday night, when about 15 men, armed with pistols and hatchets, entered the house, and struck a blow at the owner with their hatchet, when he attempted to raise an alarm. The miscreants then walked off with their loot valued at approximately $1000. A report was not made to the local police office until a few hours later.

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NOTES AND COMMENTS

Cruelty to Animals

An informal query has been made by a reader as to whether the Society for the Suppression of Cruelty to Animals still exists in Shanghai. He asks the question because a few days ago from a window of his house in the French Concession he saw some Chinese perpetrate the most horrible cruelty upon a rat. They had caught it, and while one held it up by the tail, others poured boiling water upon it. The rat escaped but was recaptured, and the same process repented. What the end was we do not know, but the whole thing is appalling, and our informant is not the sort of man to exaggerate matters. Now, probably the general opinion of the human race is that no mercy should be shown to a rat above all other vermin, and those who were through the trenches in France, when these creatures jumped on and over their faces, ate their food and all the rest of it, would do everything to exterminate them, but so, with a swift death. It actually was a practice for those who had patience enough to stand on the firestep with loaded rifle and when a rat passed the muzzle to press the trigger. Well and good: the rat knew nothing of that, but this case is very different. It is true that the police might have been summoned, but the average individual is chary of involving himself in disputes with neighbouring houses where his word will be contradicted by a dozen others. Perhaps, however, there may be a mind among the populace which can devise something, and if so we have every confidence that the authorities will adopt any scheme possible to remedy the evil.

Lithuania

A German statesman—Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg we believe—coined the phrase "the Balkanization of Europe" to describe the Versailles Treaty, and he was so far right that during the months which succeeded the ratification of this treaty there was much friction between the new small states which had been created. At the same time, however, Russian statesmen of the former *régime* saw a different and greater danger to Europe, also in the creation of these small states, and it consisted in this, that so far as the western boundary of the country was concerned these states largely cut off her access to the sea. In connexion with this they pointed out that whether Russia was an autocracy or a Soviet, it would be all the same—an inevitable instinct would impel her rulers to secure outlets on the sea coast. Now, when it comes to the Baltic, Russia's old coast line is very largely occupied by the new countries of Esthonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and one immediately sees the handicap presented to her political schemers. No matter under what guise, Russia has a deep imperialistic vein in her, which we have already seen in the Far East since the Soviet came into power, and it is an inevitable tendency on her part to give vent to it. We have yet a great deal to learn about the events leading to the revolution in Lithuania which took place over the week-end, but it is surely not too much to conclude that it was primarily brought about by the insistent demand in the minds of Russia's rulers for greater access to the sea. The theory is sufficient to account for the intrigue of the Bolsheviks with the now overthrown government, and, while subsidiary events may have led up to the immediate occasion, greater access to the sea will probably prove to be the true, underlying motive for her part in the plot.

A Sense of Humour

"The Highlanders. . . unlike the English, . . . have a great sense of humour."

Thus Kaiser Wilhelm in one of the recent instalments of his memoirs. Wilhelm, how could you? To upset a cherished illusion in that manner was really most unkind, and will go down in history as one of the most heinous crimes you have yet perpetrated. One rather wonders how many people fully realize to what extent humour is a question of nationality. It is a hoary belief in England that no Scot can see a joke. Among the wits, the saying that the best way to make a Scotsman happy in his old age is to tell him a joke as a child, has now attained a venerable antiquity but is yet respected as a classic and may usually be depended upon to raise a laugh. Then with a shock the writer learned that the same joke is current in the United States, and equally venerated, the only difference being that an Englishman is there the object of this kindly desire to amuse him in his declining years. In the States it is accepted as an axiom that no Englishman has a sense of humour. In England it is equally accepted as an axiom that no Scot has a sense of humour. In all three countries no-one would dream of admitting that a German is capable of being intentionally funny, yet Germany, too, has her wits, and is no less prolific in comic papers and periodicals than other lands. The Kaiser himself, in the course of his memoirs, at times betrays a strong sense of humour of a rather stereotyped style, though there is a strong odour of the "literary ghost" about them which still leaves Wilhelm's reputation as a wit in doubt. To the Anglo-Saxon the German style of wit seems ponderous and cumbersome. To the Briton, American humour appears crude, and at times, especially as instanced in the comic strip, almost infantile. On the other hand, the American regards the English type of humour as too obscure to be really funny. For genuine, dry fun (no pun intended) real Scottish humour would be hard to beat. The immortal Rabbie Burns' work abounds in it, whilst it is well known that the best humorous writers to be found in Fleet Street to-day are of Scottish origin.

Hope for the Future

One hears so much about noise in Shanghai not to mention the actual noise itself, that the theory recently advanced by Thomas Edison comes as a boon to the agonized ears of Shanghai dwellers. The noted scientist and inventor in the course of an interview published in "The Forum" declares that he has been able to engage in contemplative thought at the noisiest part of Broadway in New York with the same feeling of remoteness that he would have had in a jungle because he has been a victim of deafness. How this has acted as a boon instead of an impediment needs no explanation in the case of Mr. Edison. But to most of us even noise seems preferable to such a handicap. The famous inventor goes on to say, however, that in his opinion future city dwellers of the world will eventually have their hearing blunted by deafness. Thus they will be able to suffer stoically the appalling noise of modern life which has so far fallen a prey to the mechanical as to have ceased causing even wonderment on our parts. That we can still be distressed by noises, however, is apparently a sign of a backward trend in natural development. Certain other races of the world—as who has not seen a Chinese in contemplative mood in the midst of what some of us might term harrowing sounds—have developed the numbness. And coming from so distinguished and practical a scientist as the inventor of incandescent lamps, and the phonograph, to mention only two of the products of his extraordinary faculties, the sentiment that one day we shall cease being disturbed by noises comes as a decidedly hopeful note for the future.

The Long Service Medal

In Corps Orders to-day a reminder is given that application for the Long Service Medal by members of the S. V. C. should be made to Headquarters prior to December 31, and as this so closely follows upon one of the outstanding annual events of the Corps—the presentation of prizes won at the annual rifle meeting—it will not be out of place to make a short comment on its value. It takes 12 years' efficiency for a volunteer to become entitled to the medal, and no doubt when a man just out from Home joins up and thinks of 12 years' parades, the possibility of duty in broiling hot or in freezingly cold weather, probably he reckons up in his mind that his chances of securing it are somewhat remote. It is a very common phase, but if the same man will look about him and see that there are quite a number of men serving in the Corps to-day who wear the medal, he may well alter his opinion. After all, apart from exceptional times, there is no reason why a man of ordinary vitality and keenness should not follow such an example of a dozen years and more in the S. V. C. There is definite training to be gone through, and it is more scientific now and more interesting than ever before, and the generality of human beings find that when all is said and done they really enjoy being part of a wonderful machine which moves, not at the pressing of a lever, but when the human voice snaps out its command. Furthermore to-day the whole atmosphere of the Volunteers is one intimately connected with what should be the life of the man out here. There is the Fraser Shield, and some of the units run highly successful Rugger sides, not to omit cricket. Then athletic sports, boxing and all the rest, with a very fine club for the recreation of the troops, assist in making the game worth while. And in the circumstances there is no earthly reason why men should not look with admiration on those who can sport the medal and determine to do likewise.

A Romance of Wheat

To-day Canada is the largest wheat exporting country in the world, and it is remarkable that she has attained this position within only 50 years. In connexion with this the story of her first wheat shipment, as related by the Canadian Government Information Bureau, cannot fail to attract attention. It says:—

Fifty years ago the first consignment of wheat was shipped from western Canada. This shipment of 852 bushels of Red Fife wheat, the entire exportable surplus of the Canadian west at the time, left Winnipeg on October 12, 1876, consigned to L. C. Steele, a grain merchant of Toronto. It was sold for 85 cents per bushel by Higgins & Young of Winnipeg, whose bill head announced them to be "Importers of Boots, Shoes, Crockery and Glassware." The wheat was sent by a Red River boat to Duluth from which point it was shipped by railroad to Toronto, as there were no railroads in Western Canada until the early eighties.

So scientific a business to-day is the marketing of a commodity such as wheat that it is impossible to imagine anybody in the boot and crockery business attempting to take a hand in it, but when all is said and done we are not so very far off that sort of thing ourselves in these days. We fancy that some of Mr. Robert Service's saloon-keepers on the Alaska trail proved themselves extraordinarily efficient bankers so far as the gold seekers were concerned, and, accordingly, in less complicated times an importer of boots and shoes might well venture into the wheat business without undue apprehension as to the result. Probably the world actually owes a debt of gratitude to Messrs. Higgins & Young of Winnipeg for their first deal in the cereal, for to-day the total export is in the neighbourhood of four hundred million bushels.

WITH the exception of Offices in the Western Section of the Province, the acceptance by the Chinese Post Office of heavy mail and parcels for the Hunan District is resumed.

THAT the Southern forces and the Fengtienites have an even chance of success is the opinion of some Cantonese army officers who returned from the front *via* Hongkong (writes our Hongkong correspondent). Early this week, steamers from Shanghai have brought them here from the North. These officers having been through the thick of the fighting, were granted home leave and succeeded in boarding ships in Shanghai without revealing their identity. They arrived here in civilian clothes. Most of them appeared to have gone through much strain and exhaustion, but were nevertheless enthusiastic and cheerful. The northern soldiers, they said, were well equipped and trained but they lacked co-operation among their leaders, and also the fighting spirit, which was responsible for their defeat.

NEWS FROM THE OUTPORTS

A SOVIET-JAPANESE UNDERSTANDING

Persistent Rumours in Peking of Secret Arrangement of Mutual Convenience

FROM ROBERT GILBERT

Peking, Dec. 10.

Ever since the Japanese were able to disassociate themselves from the anti-British boycott in the summer of 1925, there has been much loose gossip about an understanding between the Japanese authorities and the Red directors of the Nationalist movement. This was not taken seriously by sober-minded persons. It was assumed that the Japanese were left out of the anti-foreign agitation for the same reason that the Americans, French and others were, namely because Moscow found it politic to focus China's hostility upon one nation at a time and because she had special reasons for making Great Britain the target of the moment. It was argued further that Japan had too many domestic reasons for keeping Russia at arm's length to enter into any compromising covenants with the Reds.

Fresh Tide of Rumour

During the past few weeks, however, a fresh tide of rumour has swept over this community, beginning with the talk of a Red concentration on the Manchurian frontier and leading up to quotations from an alleged document, said to be a secret treaty between Soviet Russia and Japan. These stories come from so many responsible sources that it is time they had a public airing if only for the purpose of stimulating inquiry in Japan and of laying a persistent spectre.

First of all, it is now fairly certain that the rumour of a Red invasion of the Chinese Eastern Railway zone was spread by the Bolshevist agents themselves. It is confessedly a scheme to divert Chang Tso-lin's attention and, during the past ten days, has had something of that effect. It is known now, however, through reliable communications from Harbin that orders have come from Moscow to the Far East to put an end to this propaganda and to menacing movements of troops, for the time being, *in view of the recent understanding with Japan*, so that Japan may not be suspicious of Russia's good faith. Nothing more is to be done until General Lasevitch, new Russian Vice-Director of the C.E.R. assumes office. This, it may be remarked in passing, is the only reliable corroboration of the existence of the much quoted Soviet-Japanese agreement.

Supposed Terms of Agreement

The following are supposed to be some of the terms of the agreement.

Vladivostok is to be opened as a free port for Japan only.

Russia agrees to the commercial development of Possiet Bay by the Japanese.

All facilities are to be given Japan for the purchase and export of raw materials, ores being specifically mentioned, from eastern Siberia and the import of manufactured articles.

Russia pledges herself to carry on no Communist propaganda in Japan or in Japan's continental territories or spheres of influence. As evidence of good faith Russia is to supply Japan with a list of the names of all Japanese in correspondence with the communist party in Russia.

Japan accedes to unmolested Russian control of Mongolia.

The agreement takes cognizance of the understanding arrived at between the U.S.S.R. and the Nationalists, by virtue of which Soviet Russia is eventually to be granted the same degree of control over the Chinese Eastern Railway and the railway zone as that formerly enjoyed by the Imperial Russian Government, in exchange for which restored privileges, all loans to the Kuomintang *régime*, charges for ammunition, military stores and support in other forms, are to be cancelled. Japan concurs in this arrangement.

Japan will join with Russia in securing the ascendancy of the Nationist Government in China and in securing its recognition internationally as the Government of China.

To further the Nationalist cause, Japan will furnish campaign funds, if required, to a total amount of Yen 50,000,000 Dollars or Roubles (variously quoted), to be expended through Soviet agents for purposes to be specifically agreed upon.

UNCERTAINTIES OF CHEKIANG

Troops Continually on Move: Merchants Nervous and Money Tight

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Shaohsing, Dec. 18.

The week has been one of anxiety. The slowness of the mails and the uncertainty as to the situation in Hangchow have kept us guessing as to what might be happening. A Hangchow friend who came through from Shanghai on Thursday by way of Ningpo reported that the Southern soldiers were already in Hangchow, which report is discredited by the "North-China Daily News" of the same date which only reached us this morning.

The merchant who usually cashes our Shanghai cheques for us is refusing to receive them on the ground that there is a great tightness of the money market.

Gen. Chen Yi, Civil Governor Chêkiang, was busy on Wednesday night and Thursday transporting soldiers from Hangchow toward Ningpo. To-day others of the same command are moving in the direction of Hangchow. The report is that Gen. Chen Yi will remain neutral for the present.

Kuomintang activities have revived. Notices are posted about the city stating that Gen. Chang Tsongtung is a robber and his soldiers "tufei" (brigands) and defending the Kuomintang by calling on the people to study its record of achievement in Canton. It is the old party, but the propaganda has assumed a different tone from that of past years.

The Farmer's Earnings

The man on the street is discussing "three-three-one" and "four-four-two." The former doctrine is that under the new *régime* the farmer's produce will be divided on the basis of three-tenths for the farmer, three-tenths for the landowner, three-tenths for the Cantonese Government, and one tenth for the local government. The latter means that of all the rents collected four-tenths will go to the landlord, four-tenths to the Cantonese Government, and two-tenths to the local government. Workers generally are looking forward to better conditions when the new order comes in while the capitalists are full of forebodings.

A strike on among the boaters of spirit-money involving about 20,000 men. There is apparently no connexion, however, between this strike and the political upheaval. The workers are striking for an increase in pay at the very time when the employers are trying to cut down expenses because of the slackness of the market.

18 Hrs. by Train to Hangchow

One of of our boys from the Shanghai American School arrived home to-day from Hangchow. He left the North station at 3 p.m. on Friday with a number of Hangchow friends. At Kashing the train overtook the train that had left Shanghai at 9 a.m. that same day. There the party transferred to the 9 a.m. train arriving at Hangchow at 3 a.m. this morning, which meant 18 hours between Shanghai and Hangchow for the first train out on Friday morning. This is probably the record on the Shanghai-Hangchow line.

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TALE OF TREACHERY FROM SZECHUAN

General Invited to a Banquet then Seized and his Job Stolen

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Luchow, Sze. Dec. 8.

For just over a year now Luchow has been in the hands of a brigadier-general named Li, one of general Lai Hsin-huei's men. General Lai, who is still the nominal civil governor of Szechuan has himself been here for a part of the time since he was obliged to flee from his capital last spring. Just across the little river from Luchow is a town called Little Market where another brigadier-general, who owes nominal allegiance to Lai Hsin-huei has been stationed over since the Kueichow soldiers were driven from there in May. This brigadier, who is a well known ex-robber chief has not been content for some time to take the smaller amount of money which he could obtain from so small a place while his brother officer had the better pickings of the important commercial town of Luchow. Consequently general Li was asked to go to some other place and let him have his share of the better times. Li was willing to go, so report said, but the board of trade here was very anxious to retain him because he ruled his troops well and during the whole year he has been here he has never asked for a special levy. He has been extremely severe at times in his punishments, taking men's heads off at the least provocation, but to do him justice, he has tried to keep things straight and the people in general were well satisfied with his rule knowing that it was much better than anything else in sight. Thus encouraged Li stayed on and everyone hoped that he would be able to stay.

Rank Treachery

The day before yesterday, however, without the slightest warning, pandemonium broke loose in the city. The general from Little Market, Chen by name, had secretly placed some of his troops in the city, and on that day had invited general Li out to a feast and had taken him treacherously into custody. Severe street fighting commenced about five o'clock in the evening and continued all night and up until about ten o'clock yesterday morning, when general Li's men were all either taken or chased out of the city. The streets were torn up in many places and barricades erected and broken tile was scattered all about. As far as could be seen there were not many casualties amongst the soldiers and I have not heard of many amongst the civilian population.

Foreigner Wounded

One of the members of our foreign community, Mr. Howes of the China Inland Mission was, however wounded by a bullet which passed through the front part of his two legs up near the thighs. He and Mr. Amos, also of the China Inland Mission were returning home when the trouble began and being turned back from one way tried another and finally tried to return to the place from which they had come. In this attempt they got between two fires and a veritable hail of bullets were whizzing all about them. They had almost reached a place of safety when Mr. Howes was hit. They then succeeded in getting a small shopkeeper to take them in and they spent the night there on a door, as no bed was available. The people in the shop were very kind to them but of course were not able to do much for them, and no medical aid could be secured until the fighting was over the next morning. Mr. Howes is a Canadian and came to China only last year. We had just been congratulating ourselves on the fact that Luchow had been so quiet for over a year when this came on so unexpectedly. There were none of the rumours of wars which usually precede these affairs; this time there was not a breath of any trouble as no enemy was supposed to be near but in China's civil warfare there are few rules which can be followed. In Szechuan at any rate what alliances there are are all for selfish personal reasons and are easily broken if there is an advantage to be gained by so doing.

There has been some looting by the incoming soldiers from some of the poorer people as well as from some more well to do. One particularly mean theft which has come to our notice was that of a quilt from off two children in a poor home. And yet the students met last night and passed resolutions of welcome to the newcomer and said they were glad of the change because general Li had oppressed them and allowed them no liberty. Apparently a robber is better than an official who rules well in these days of freedom even in the eyes of the so-called *intelligensia*.

Li Bought Out

The news comes to-day that general Li has been bought out by the Board of Trade and is now at their headquarters presumably waiting to see what Lai Hsin-huei will be able to do about the situation. It was feared yesterday that his life might be in danger, in fact there was a rumour that his head had fallen.

Dr. Williams of the Canadian Mission who has just completed the new hospital here and opened it, left us this week to go to Chungking to meet his bride, Miss McKellar of Winnipeg, Canada, who has just arrived in Chungking. They will return to Luchow after their wedding and carry on the medical work of the Canadian Mission here.

ANTI-RED CAMPAIGN IN MANCHURIA

Stringent Regulations Drawn up by Chinese Authorities

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

Harbin, Dec. 14.

Although the Chinese authorities feel confident that under present conditions they are quite safe from any active measures on the part of the Soviets in Manchuria, they are, on the other hand, well aware of the danger presented by the growing Communistic activity carried out in this country by Soviet official and un-official institutions. At the recent military conference at Tientsin of the Northern military leaders this question received considerable attention and stringent anti-communistic measures can be expected to be brought into force shortly.

In connexion with this a conference of the chief police officials was called together by Cheng, the governor of Kirin. At this conference mention was made of the growing Communistic propaganda in schools and is was decided henceforth that the police must be supplied with detailed information as to the number of their teachers, pupils, their political creeds, etc., and forward such data to the Governor's Administration Office.

In addition, the following general regulations for the prevention of communistic propaganda in the Three Eastern Provinces have been worked out:

(1) To establish a strict control over all printing establishments in order to prevent the printing of pamphlets, proclamations etc.

(2) To establish a control over all bookstores and to prohibit sale of any literature having a Communistic character.

(3) To establish, if necessary, censorship of postal matters.

(4) To establish a stricter control over persons living at hotels and also of those arriving in and leaving the country.

(5) To punish severely and deport all persons found guilty of Communistic propaganda.

ONE Kawashima, an alleged Communist who was arrested in Kyoto recently is said to have carried G.30,000 from America to England during the coal strike, and was known to have been well known in high American Communistic circles.

OUR Harbin correspondent writes: Sentence has been passed on the Red youths who some time ago assassinated a White young man, for political reasons. The crime took place in the summer, the deceased being stabbed in the back with jack-knives, a weapon which is popular among these youths. Four of the accused received life sentences, two received three years' hard labour each and one was discharged. The sentences were passed in closed courts, neither counsel for the defence or press representatives being allowed admission.

BOYCOTT SITUATION IN SWATOW

More Hopeful Aspect: Riesha Coolies and their Competitors

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Swatow, Dec. 10.

There has been little change in the boycott situation here during the past two weeks. Local dealers have been very largely deterred from importing or handling British goods, and dealers in other ports have been scared by the telegrams and other messages sent out from here, and are not using British shipping to anything like the normal extent. At the same time there has not been anything in the nature of direct interference with either the shipping or landing of goods. The decree which has gone forth is that all British goods in stock in the shops must be cleared out within the Chinese year; and that any found thereafter will be confiscated, and penalties unspecified imposed on the offenders. This is by way of demonstrating the spontaneous popular indignation which is supposed to exist, and indeed to be increasing every day.

But the show is rather given away by a pathetic notice that has been appearing in the papers for a week past by the "Representative committee for the extension of the anti-British economic boycott," which emphasizes that the responsibility for carrying on the boycott now rests with the general public, and that, whatever instructions had been issued that all shops must before November 27 send in a statement of all British goods in stock, this has been done by a very small number indeed, and that this indicates a gross failure in duty; wherefore the time has been extended for another week, after which inspectors will be sent round to make investigation, and delinquents will be severely dealt with.

It is surely time for the too long-suffering merchants and shopkeepers to take their courage in both hands and refuse to be bullied in this fashion any longer. One cannot help feeling that the agitation is tottering badly, and only needs a push to send it over altogether; and they are the people who could administer it, if only they dared. But it is a big "if."

Riesha Coolies and Buses

Two days ago there appeared upon the streets six brand-new motor omnibuses plying along the various "routes" that now intersect the town. They were seated for 12 to be filled all the time, with several straphangers in addition. To-day three of them are lying at various points along the Kialat road, the wooden bodies smashed to firewood, and the engines beaten to a pulp; and the other three are to be found drawn up opposite the head police station in a condition only slightly less dilapidated.

This is the result of an organized attack upon them by the rickshamen's union in the early forenoon. A body of between one and two hundred turned out, some armed with crowbars, axes, and hammers, and the rest with hefty bamboos, and systematically went for them one after the other. They blocked the road with overturned rickshas to make them stop, and then a minute or two completed the work. The police contented themselves with standing guard over the fragments that remained, and telling the curious crowds to move on; and a body of soldiers came doubling on to the scene after all was over, but the rioters were dispersing and transforming themselves into peaceable citizens again.

Certainly the temper of the rioters was such that the police would have come off very much the worse if they had tried to interfere. Nothing but rifles could have stopped them. The rickshamen declare that on the two days on which the buses were running their earnings dropped by one half—which is no doubt an exaggeration, but not wholly remote from the truth. This affair creates a nice problem for the new mayor. The omnibus company was duly registered, and, presumably, guaranteen protection by him, and was paying a very heavy charge for the monopoly. This is a pretty example of the mob rule to which we shall no doubt become more and more subjected unless the government can make up its mind to make the labour unions understand that this kind of "imperialism" is not to be tolerated.

A New Boom at Work

The new mayor began his *régime* about two weeks ago with a great flourish of trumpets, intimating that he was going to float a loan of $500,000 for the purpose of buying out the water and electric light companies and running them as municipal concerns. But since the companies indicated that they valued their plant at about four times that amount nothing more has been heard of the project. He also published an instruction forbidding peddlers and hawkers to block the new wide streets with their stalls and wares—a very greatly needed reform—but things are to-day just exactly as they were before. He also issued an order that all dogs must be registered, and provided with metal tabs hung round their necks bearing their registration number; but I have not yet observed any of our canine friends so adorned.

Another order recently issued from his office is to the effect that all teachers in middle schools must register themselves as members of the Kuomintang. I have not heard whether this has been carried out any more effectively than the others. It is to be hoped that it has not.

OUR HONGKONG LETTER

Arrival of the New Commodore, Captain Pearson

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Honkgkong, Dec. 14.

Captain John L. Pearson, C.M.G. R.N. the new commodore in charge of naval establishment in Hongkong, arrived from Home with his wife. He was met on arrival by Rear-Admiral A. J. B. Stirling who had since left for England with members of his family.

Born in 1879, Captain Pearson was in command for three years of the air craft carrier Furious, in the Atlantic Fleet. As a lieutenant 20 years ago, he rescued a drowning sailor by the capsize of a target, and was awarded a medal of the Royal Humane Society.

Another departure was Sir Ronald Macleay, K.C.M.G. who left for Home *via* Suez. While in Hongkong, the former Minister invested Mr. E. A. Kirke, H.M. Consul in Swatow, with the insignia of a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, a decoration announced in the last Birthday Honours List. The investiture was performed in private.

RETURN OF PANCHAN LAMA

Departure from Peking for Mukden

Peking, Dec. 20.

The Panchan Lama, who has been in Peking nearly two years, is leaving for Mukden to-morrow, where he will stay two months before returning to Inner Mongolia early in the spring, *viâ* Jehol.—Reuter.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO TOKYO

Comrade Kopp's Successor Not Yet Named

Tokyo, Dec. 12.

An official announcement that Comrade Kopp is not returning to Tokyo has been received, but the Soviet has not yet intimated who will succeed him as Ambassador.—Reuter.

MOTORSHIP AGROUND

Manila, Dec. 17.

The motorship Asiatic Prince is aground off Cabilao Island on the west coast of Bohol. The accident is reported to be not serious.—Reuter.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST KUOMINCHUN

Progress in Shansi: Governor's Strong Hand on His Fengtien Troops

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Taiku, Shansi, Dec. 10.

What Governor Yen was able to accomplish during the war in Shansi a few monthes ago he has failed to do in these piping times of peace. At that time he was offered two divisions of Fengtien troops to aid in his campaign against the Kuominchun in the north of the province. Much to the relief of the Shansi people the governor was able to refuse this offer of help and to have his refusal respected. However, within the last two weeks General T'an Ch'ing-lin with his troops has come up to Taiyuanfu. After a short rest there the troops are being sent on to the north, their objective being a campaign against the Kuominchun in the north of Shensi Province. General T'an is known as a lieutenant of Marshal Wu Pei-fu's, but he is evidently acting under orders from the Fengtien party in this movement through Shansi. It should be said in passing that General T'an's troops seem to be well disciplined and under firm control. Chinese newspapers have made much of an incident that occurred a few days ago as a part of the troops were marching north from Taiyuanfu. A soldier stole a pair of wadded trousers from a shopkeeper in a village through which the troops were passing. The shopkeeper complained to the commanding officer and the soldier was tried, found guilty and shot at daylight the next morning.

Crimes of the Troops

In this connexion mention should be made of a proclamation that Governor Yen put out a few days ago, addressed to the officers and soldiers of the Shansi army. In plain language the governor recited the "crimes" of soldiers of his army during their campaigning in the north last spring and summer. These misdemeanors ranged all the way from rape to assumption of district offices. Officers and soldiers were admonished in the strongest possible language to repent and never again bring such disgrace upon the good name of Shansi.

General Liu Chen-hua, commander-in-chief of the Wu P'ei-fu armies in Shansi, paid a flying visit to Shansi on the 8th instant. He reached Taiyuanfu by special train about 1 p. m. on that day and left at nine o'clock the same evening. The object of this flying visit has not, of course, been divulged, but it unquestionably has something to do with the present campaign against the Kuominchun in Shansi.

A recent mandate issued by Governor Yen levies a surtax of 25 per cent. of the freight charges upon all goods carried on the Chengtai Railway. The funds so secured are to be used for the "protection" of the railway, which is just another way of saying, for military expenses. This order is worthy of note in that it represents Governor Yen's first effort to derive a revenue for the provincial government from the working of this railway.

Postal Changes

In a previous letter I reported the resignation of Mr. L. J. Blix, the district postal commissioner. His successor is Mr. Erik Nordstrom, late deputy postal commissioner at Tientsin. Mr. Nordstrom assumed office on the 6th instant.

General Chu Yu-pu, the Tupan of Chihli Province, recently disbanded and scattered a force of troops stationed at Shuntehfu on the Kin-Han Railway. This is likely to mean trouble for the people along the eastern border of Shansi, for these disbanded soldiers will, of course, take to brigandage as a means of livelihood. The magistrate of Liao Hsien in this province was thrown into a panic the other day upon receiving a report that a band of 600 bandits were approaching the borders of his district from Chihli. This is the district that was raided by Fan Chung-hsiu's troops a year ago just at this time. However, any invaders will find Shansi in a far different state of preparedness from that prevailing a year ago.

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JAPAN'S EMPEROR IMPROVING

Cabinet Ministers Returning to Tokyo: No Immediate Crisis: Court Functions and New Year Celebrations Cancelled: Marked Steadier

Tokyo, Dec. 17.

A bulletin issued by the Household Department at midnight states that the Emperor's pulse and respiration are irregular. A heart stimulant and a salt solution mixed with milk have been administered. —Reuter.

Tokyo, Dec. 17.

A bulletin issued by the Imperial Household Office at 8.30 a.m. to-day states that His Majesty slept well for more than three hours last night, but later His Majesty was half awake and half asleep.

According to the bulletin, His Majesty's heart, which is in a weakened condition, has not returned to normal, and he appears to have become more fatigued.

His Majesty's temperature, pulse, and respiration are about the same as the previous bulletin.—Toho.

Attempts at Self-Immolation

Tokyo, Dec. 18.

Owing to the dangerous condition of the Emperor, public music and dancing have been voluntarily stopped throughout Tokyo. It has been decided to dispense with New Year decorations, which, normally, are very gay.

Several attempts at self-immolation owing to despondency over the Emperor's condition are reported, including one of the nurses attending the Imperial patient.

An official bulletin issued at 12.30 this afternoon states that the Emperor's temperature, pulse and respiration are decreasing and the pneumonia in the right lung has further developed.

Increasing fatigue is noted and another salt solution was administered at 11 this morning.

For the last two nights radio has been broadcasting nothing but bulletins of news from Hayama.

The newspapers are issuing extras almost hourly, filling whole editions with intensest anxiety and gloom.

The markets are depressed and dealings have considerably diminished.

Most places of amusement have been closed since yesterday: on the other hand, places of worship are crowded with people praying for His Majesty's recovery.

More Hopeful Tone in Press

Dec. 20.

The columns of the newspapers continue to be devoted almost entirely to news concerning the Emperor. Though bulletins of the past 36 hours report His Majesty's condition unchanged the press sounds a more hopeful note to-day as the injections have apparently been more effective than had been anticipated, but the gravest anxiety continues.

Silent crowds are thronging the principal shrines and temples praying for His Majesty's recovery, whilst similar crowds composed of men, women and children of all stations of life are to be seen kneeling or prostrating themselves before the gates of the Palace night and day in spite of the bitter cold of the last few days.

In view of the near approach of the New Year this is generally the busiest and gayest time, but owing to the very intense anxiety a general sense of depression pervades everywhere. As the Diet is opening on December 25, Cabinet Ministers and politicians normally would be very busy making their final preparations for the coming session but everything is temporarily in a state of suspended animation.—Reuter.

Signs of Improvement

Tokyo, Dec. 20.

Prince H. Ito, Grand Master of Ceremonies, who returned here from Hayama to-day, announced it was probable that the Prince Regent would not return to Tokyo from Hayama for a day or two.

Drs Nishikawa and Yamakawa, court physicians, who, since the 16th instant, have been attending the Emperor left the Imperial villa this morning, the first time for many days. They declared to press representatives that the condition of the Emperor was at present quiet.—Toho.

Osaka, Dec. 20.

The markets are steadier to-day and the tension has been somewhat relieved owing to the improvement in the Emperor's condition recorded in the latest bulletins. Dealings, however, continue to be small.

While the public mind is rivetted on Hayama, the developments at Hankow are not escaping the attention of business men.—Reuter.

Condition Improving

Tokyo, Dec. 21.

As the Emperor's condition warrants the belief that there will be no immediate crisis all the Cabinet Ministers except the Premier have returned to Tokyo to attend urgent business in connexion with the convocation of the Diet on December 24.

All Court functions and New Year celebrations, however, have been definitely cancelled.—Reuter.

Osaka, Dec. 21.

The good news from Hayama has been reviving normal activities. The Osaka theatres opened again last night. The streets are more lively and the Christmas sales have been resumed. The newspapers now find space for Chinese news, which is attracting public attention. Business men are watching the developments at Peking. The *Mainichi*," in an editorial on the question of the recognition of the Canton Government, is in favour of a policy of "wait and see."—Reuter.

Increased Nourishment

Tokyo, Dec. 21.

According to the latest official bulletin, the Emperor is showing signs of improvement. His Majesty's milk diet has been increased and [redacted] also taking small quantities [redacted] soup, egg yolks and red wine.

One of the Emperor's physicians and six Cabinet Ministers came to Tokyo to-day but all returned to Hayama later.

While much credit is given to the physicians who have been battling day and night for the Emperor's life, the newspapers believe that the prayers of the nation have helped to avert a crisis. Physicians believe that the special salt solution brought from Germany by the Court physician saved the situation. Officials seem optimistic, but the general physical condition of the Imperial patient is such that prognoses are uncertain. A relapse is possible at any time.

Most Ministerial business is still transacted at Hayama and extreme vigilance is continuing.

The Empress, her sons, mother and sisters are keeping watch every night at the Emperor's beside.

High Temperature with Some Delirium

Dec. 22.

The Emperor's temperature rose during the night. His Majesty was somewhat delirious and sleepless. There was also occasional coughing. —Reuter.

STRIKING SCENES IN HAYAMA

Hundreds *Before* Imperial Residence Praying for Recovery

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Tokyo, Dec. 13.

The attention of the Japanese nation is to-day focussed on the little sea-side town of Hayama, about 40 miles from Tokyo, where His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan is lying seriously ill.

The malady has been diagnosed [redacted] be a serious case of *broncho-pneumonia* and fears are entertained that His Majesty, who has been [redacted] bad health for some years past, may not survive the latest attack on his already weakened constitution.

Several members of the Imperial Family have already moved to Hayama in order to be near the Imperial patient, while His Imperial Highness the Prince Regent is expected to leave the capital to-day for Hayama in order to be beside the Emperor. The sick chamber of the Emperor is a room of about 20 feet by 20 feet, the floors of which are lined with Japanese *tatami* (rush mats) over which are several carpets of a dark cream colour.

The little town of Hayama presents a strange blending of East and West. Over 50 newspapermen, armed with cameras, have been deputed to live in Hayama during the period of the Emperor's illness and the least change in the Imperial patient's condition is forthwith telegraphed to their papers which issue from two to three special bulletins daily. Police officers and telephone and telegraph operators have also helped to swell the small population of Hayama, while every train brings hundreds of His Majesty's subjects bent on praying, in front of the Emperor's summer residence, for the Imperial patient's recovery.

All day and night long can be heard the beat of drums and the chant of Buddhist prayers. These come from the devotees of the Nichiren sect of Buddhism, which is the strongest Buddhist denomination in Japan. Ascetic practices, including severe fasting and the inflicting of corporal punishments on themselves, together with incessant praying, are the chief characteristics of the form in which the supplication of the Nichiren Buddhists takes for recovery of their Ruler.

The street-car employes of Tokyo and Yokohama, declaring that they were not sufficiently well treated, planned to go on strike. The reports of the Emperor's condition, however, induced them to remain at their posts and not add to the uncertainty and discomfort of the people.

BUDDHIST CHURCH FOR U.S.A.

Famous Japanese Monk's Plan: to Supplement Not to Supplant

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Tokyo, Dec. 16.

Believing that there is much in Buddhism that would enrich Christianity and enables followers of the faith of the Great Nazarene to drink greater draughts of spiritual nourishment, Count Otani, Lord Abbott of one of the largest Japanese Buddhist monasterics, is planning the establishment of a strong Buddhist Church in America, a church to cater chiefly to Americans.

Count Otani does not believe in Buddhism supplanting Christianity. As a matter of fact, he does not believe that any religion should so direct its activities as to supplant any other great faith. He does believe, however, that there is a need for the nobler tenets of Buddhism in America and hopes that, if his plans fructify, the tolerance that is such a strong point in Christianity, would be extended to his efforts.

To encourage Westerners who care to study Buddhism, Count Otani has built a cottage-home in Kyoto and visitors or students will be supplied food and lodging here at the expense of his sect, the powerful Hongwanji Sect.

Plans Not Yet Made

Plans are still formative regarding the despatch of Buddhist missionaries to America. There are many in the States to-day, but they confine their activities to the Japanese community. The additional missionaries, when sent, propose to extend the scope of their evangelical efforts principally to White Americans. Two Hawaiian-born Japanese have already entered the [redacted] of Count Otani, desiring that they be educated in the tenets of Buddhism and sent forth as missionaries of this Eastern faith to Western lands.

Count Otani has travelled extensively in America and Europe. He [redacted] closely related to the Ruling Family, his wife being a sister of the Emperor. From the religious point of view, Count Otani is the most powerful monk in Japan, while he also wields great influence in political and social circles as well.

One in every ten of Japan's population belongs to the Buddhist sect of which Count Otani is the head-priest. In the old days, the Hongwanji Temple in Kyoto was a magnificent structure, as it was officially supported. Since religion was divorced from politics some 40 years ago, the splendour of what may be called a Japanese St. Peter's has considerably deteriorated, but even yet the Hongwanji temple is one of the sights of the temple-city of Kyoto.

THE "HARA KARI" OF GENERAL NOGI

"To Follow In Death the Master I Served in Life": Suicide To Startle the Japanese People Into Loyalty to Their Emperor: Deliberate Preparation

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Tokyo

The most thrilling incident in Japan's modern history is under fire to-day—this being the hara-kiri (self-inflicted death by disembowelling) of Field-Marshal Count Nogi. Was the suicide justified? Is suicide sometimes a sacrifice so necessary that it becomes the only appeal left for a dear cause? Under such circumstances, is or is not suicide not only the only vindication, but also an indispensable means of properly advocating a cause that is dearer than life?

Before one proceeds further, the story of Count Nogi's hara-kiri should be briefly narrated.

The Emperor Meiji, for whom the Count lived, had died. All throughout his life, the one inflexible aim of the Hero of Port Arthur, as Count Nogi became afterwards known, was to serve his Emperor and, through the Emperor, his country. That was his simple faith, religious and politic. To him, the Emperor Meiji was really sacrosanct, and, when the Emperor died, Count Nogi pushed his sense of duty still further and, [redacted] his own words, decided "to follow in death the Master whom I served in life."

Funeral arrangements were being made in the Palace. Count Nogi, then Japan's deified hero, was to occupy a prominent position in the funeral obsequies, a position of rank equal to that of the Princess and Princesses of the Blood. Suddenly a report spread all over Tokyo that Nogi was dead. Nogi, the hero of Port Arthur, friend of royalty and idol of the Japanese nation, was no more. He had crossed into the Unknown just as the funeral cortége of the Emperor Meiji left the Palace for the Imperial mausoleum. With him, he took his wife, Countess Nogi.

Calculated Preparation

There was ample proof to show that the dual tragedy was not hastily decided upon. Both Count and Countess Nogi had purified themselves by bathing, had put all their earthly affairs in order, had donned clean white clothes and, sitting back on their knees in *more Japonico*, facing a portrait of the Emperor Meiji, had taken farewell of this world through the instrumentality of the sword the Count wore when he stormed and captured the much-vaunted "impregnable" Port Arthur. That was [redacted] 1911, 15 years ago.

Fifteen years is not a very long period in the life of a nation. In the case of Japan, however, 15 years have seen marvellous changes, not the least of which is the change in the mentality of the people. People have severely, albeit *sotto voce* or screened by anonymity, criticized the action of Count Nogi, on the ground that suicide is never defensible, that it is a crime against God who alone has the right to take away the life He gave us and that the action of Field-Marshal Count Nogi is tantamount to encouragement of suicide.

The Defence

In defending the act of Count Nogi, one must needs look at the matter through Japanese eyes. He gave as his reason that he desired to "serve in death the Master (Emperor Meiji) he had served in life." But, in addition to this, Nogi made this great sacrifice in order to startle the Japanese into loyalty to the son of Meiji Tenno, for already, in 1911, there were signs of discontent with the monarchy, carelessness and extravagance. In life, he had preached—for it was more than lecturing—on the evils of extravagance, the worthlessness of conceit that followed the success of Japan over Russia and the danger of allowing the national spirit to relax. They were hardly listened to, and his death may be regarded as his final speech, a speech eloquent in its tragic silence.

An even more serious criticism of Count Nogi's hara-kiri was the allegation that he had no right to induce his wife to join him in death, that he must have used a certain amount of moral pressure to make her follow him across the Meido (Japanese Styx) and that, therefore, his act, however glorious, detracts from its real value.

It has never been proved, nevertheless, that Count Nogi had used anything like pressure on the Countess; there have been ugly insinuations that the Countess wept when the proposition was first put before her and finally consented when her lord and master refused to yield one iota. The character of the Countess, on the other hand, gives the lie to this fabrication, while no patriotic Japanese will dare assert that Count Nogi would ever have insisted on his wife courting death if she preferred to live after him. As one of the reasons why the Countess also chose to follow the Count in death may be mentioned the death of her two sons at Port Arthur. For Count Nogi, the loss of his sons must undoubtedly have been very sad; but he lived in the rays of another sun, namely the Emperor Meiji. For the Countess, the loss of her sons proved to be a very poignant pain and the sun of her life had set when they paid the supreme sacrifice for their country, as has been the case with many a mother and father who lost their offspring in the recent war. Viewed this way, one can understand that the Countess chose death of her own free will, especially as, since the close of the Russo-Japanese war, despite the fact that the Count was the idol of the people, the Nogis lived the lives of recluses, shutting themselves up in their unpretentious Japanese dwelling in Akasaka, a district of Tokyo, and refusing again and again the proffer of palaces and mansions.

Household a Sacred Shrine

The Nogi household is now a sacred Shrine, sacred to the spirits of the Count and the Countess. It is a shabby house, hardly worthy of enshrining the greatest soldier and patriot that Modern Japan has produced. The entrance is through an unadorned gateway in a weather-worn and dilapidated bamboo fence. But people visit this house daily. Slowly and reverently, they view the room where the hara-kiri was committed. The room is in just the same condition as it was 15 years ago when the double tragedy startled Japan and the world. Nothing has been altered, nothing changed. On the mat-floor are deep crimson stains, marking the spot where the life-blood of Count and Countess Nogi spoke to the Japanese of loyalty to the Emperor and service to their country before they bade Japan a last farewell.

FATAL EXPLOSION IN TONGSHAN MINE

Twenty Dead Through Ignition of Fire Damp

Tientsin, Dec. 22.

Twenty Chinese were killed and sixteen seriously injured as a result of an explosion in a Kailan Mining Administration mine at Tongshan on Monday.

The accident was due to an explosion of firedamp on the ninth level.

Rescue work was begun immediately and is proceeding continuously.—Reuter.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET

Colonial Estimates for the Next Year

Tokyo, Dec. 21.

The outline of the Colonial Budget estimates for the next fiscal year, 1927-8 is as follows:—

Yen 209,702,000 for the Chosen Government; Yen 111,690,000 for the Formosan Government; Yen 17,915,000 for the leased Territory of Kuantung; Yen 19,724,000 for Southern Saghalien; and Yen 4,546,000 for the South Sea Islands.—Toho.

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BITTER COLD SNAP IN HARBIN

Temperature Lowest for Quarter of a Century Due to Anti-Cyclones

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Harbin, Dec. 11.

There was an extraordinary drop in the temperature at the beginning of the week, said to be due to passing anti-cyclones, the thermometer registering 30 degrees of frost by Celcius, a thing that has not happened in Harbin for the last quarter of a century. Everybody has felt the cold more than usual on account of this sudden drop and there have been a good many cases of frozen limbs. The Sungari, which thanks to the mild weather at the end of last month and the beginning of this, had remained open, became suddenly frozen over in the space of two days and now a group of Chinese business men intend to organize a number of "flivvers" to cross the river, charging 10 cents per trip. At Manchouli over 40 degrees of frost has been registered which is likewise a record for this time of the year.

Russian Suicides

Suicides among Russians here are not on the decrease, and as often as not the reason of their taking their lives remains more or less a mystery. A youth of 19, a student at the local Railway Technological Institute who was living quite a normal life, suddenly took it in his head a few days ago to go and hang himself in an outhouse just before supper-time, and whilst his brother and others were waiting for him to come to the table. Another Russian took poison on account of the untimely end of his favourite dog, but is still alive thanks to a friend. The dog had been locked in at home, but being very attached to his master, broke a window and got out trying to find his master. He was run over by an automobile and killed, a fact which distressed the owner so much that he attempted to take his own life.

Hard Business

Japanese firms here are continuing to close down on mortgages they have given to Russians and properties are going under the hammer nearly daily by order of the Court. When a sale actually takes place it is usually the Japanese firm which gave the mortgage that becomes the new owner, and at a price much under the cost price of the property. General Horvath's estate and farm at old Harbin is likely to follow the footsteps of other valuable property, for the same reason, his place is valued at something like $200,000 and is of considerable area.

Mr. Speelman of the I.S.S., while passing through Harbin on his way back to Shanghai from a holiday, was approached by a group of leading business men concerning a valuable property in the centre of Pristan on which is built a couple of modern houses of three floors, and which has been mortgaged to the Yokohama Specie Bank. The owner of the property is willing to hand over the buildings for a public hospital at a moderate rent, provided the mortgage to the Bank amounting to 80,000 Yen is paid off, and Mr. Speelman was asked if the I.S.S. was prepared to advance the necessary sum, two local banks guaranteeing that interest etc. would be met on time. The reply received was that the matter would be placed before the Directors of the I.S.S., Mr. Speelman pointing out at the same time the investments made by the Society in Harbin had been hardly satisfactorily, for interest due on mortgages granted was not being paid accurately.

Timber Men in Gaol

The Vozontoff brothers, timber concessionaires on the western section of the C.E.R. still remain under arrest at Hailar, but is still unknown on what basis they are being held prisoners as there appears to be no charge against them. It is another case of Chinese officials taking the law into their own hands. The Vozontzoffs obtained the right to exploit the forest lands situated at the source of the Hailar River and its tributary streams which rise in the lower slopes of the Hinghan range, years ago from the local Barga officials, when Barga had nothing to do with Heilungchiang Province. This agreement, it is understood, was ratified by the Chinese Government in November 1915, when Russia and China came to an agreement over the status of Barga.

PLAGUE PANIC IN MANCHURIA

Official Neglect in Country District Leads to Epidemic: The People Fleeing

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

Harbin, Dec. 14.

Shanghai residents and firms must have wondered when during the last months they were approached by peddlers who offered them unused postal stamps at reduced prices. The answer to this will be found in a regulation issued by the Chinese Postal Administration of Harbin limiting the sale of stamps to individuals to ■ cents at one time. Larger amounts are sold only to firms and institutions upon presentation of certified letters. It was noticed by the postal authorities that the sale of stamps at the Harbin post offices had increased considerably whilst at some other post offices there was a marked falling off. At the same time the amount of correspondence posted at Harbin remained the same. An investigation was started, as a result of which a new way for making easy money, invented by a group of Harbin speculators, was disclosed. Availing themselves of the difference in the exchange rate existing between the Harbin dollar and the currency issued by foreign banks in treaty ports, which averages some 15 to ■ per cent, and also of the recent fall of the local dollar, the speculators started buying large amounts of stamps, which they then transferred to Shanghai, Peking, Tientsin and other cities. Their agents there peddled the stamps to firms offering them at a discount, profits on such transactions averaging $20 to $30 on $100. The regulation of the Post Office now in force, has however cut this promising business in the bud.

Plague Panic

The local Russian press ■ in receipt of information from Mongolia of an alarming outbreak of pneumonic plague in Central Halha in the Tse-Tsen-han Aimak. Isolated cases of plague have already been reported earlier but the Mongolian Government does not seem to have paid much attention. During the last days of November, the plague was carried into one of the monasteries, some 100 miles east of Tse-Tsen-han. In two days over 500 deaths were registered and the remainder of the population is fleeing in panic into the interior of the country, probably carrying infection with them. Sambeis is filled with refugees from the west. According to advice from Urga, a party of doctors, headed by doctor Dudunaloff have left for the stricken district with a large quantity of anti-plague serum. The situation is aggravated by the fact that this district is one of the most densely populated, a large number of monasteries being situated there, around which usually centres the larger part of the Mongolian population. Adjoining it is the Norbo-Ulan hoshun, one of the richest in cattle and sheep, which are annually exported in a large number to the U.S.S.R. through Ulchun and Borzia and to North Manchuria via Manchuli and Hailar stations. Another large item of export trade is tarabagan skins, common carriers of the plague germ.

As the medical service in Mongolia is still in its infancy and the medical staff greatly limited, no proper anti-plague measures on the part of the Mongolian Government can be looked for and so the authorities of the North Manchuria are greatly worried about the possibility of plague being carried into Manchuria, and are now devising measures for its prevention.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE

Tokyo, Dec. 21.

The Finance Department announces that Japan's foreign trade during the second ten days of the present month amounted to Y.52,270,000 in exports and Y.45,340,000 in imports, the favourable balance being Y.6,930,000.—Toho.

BANK CLERKS STRIKE IN HONGKONG

Employees of Chinese Banks Who Complain their Position is Worse than Ricsha Coolies

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Hongkong, Dec. 16.

The Bank of East Asia and the Bank of Canton, both incorporated in Hongkong, are now suffering from a strike of clerks in their Canton branches. The men are demanding higher wages, according to a progressive scale, and better treatment. The strikers say in a manifesto: "The managers do everything they can to please the bosses, disregarding completely the interests of the workers. They even hire and dismiss employees by favouritism and without consideration of ability. We have to dress neatly, and by our appearance we are judged as the most privileged among the working class. In reality, the economic conditions of the ricsha pullers and ordinary coolies are often better than ours."

They demand further that when re-engaged they shall not be dismissed without sufficient reason.

The bankers refuse to comply with the terms as to dismissal and employment of staffs, as this interferes with the management and administration. The question of salary is of less consequence, it is stated, but the employers are adamant in adhering to the claim of unrestricted control over what is considered the banks' own business.

Lieut. Maurice Anthony Maude, naval flying officer, met his death recently by accident at Lantau Island. The deceased, Lieut. Day, and a Mr. Montague formed a shooting party and set out for Lantau Island in a yacht on Saturday. The boat reached one side of the Island where the party landed, and instructions were given to the crew that the boat was to go over to other side of the Island to meet the party who were climbing over the hills.

As the three game shooters were walking down the hill, Lieut. Day heard a shot. Turning round, he saw that Lieut. Maude was shot in the face by a shot gun. The wounded man was behind the other two who did not see what actually happened. It was surmised that as the hilt is fairly steep, Lieut. Maude had stumbled down and that his gun had gone off accidentally. The injuries proved to be very severe, as he died before arriving at Kowloon Hospital.

The deceased was a popular officer, well known in the Colony. He came out in 1925 on H.M.S. Hermes and did a considerable amount of flying. After the Hermes had left for the Mediterranean, Lieut. Maude was left in Hongkong in charge of the seaplanes. A member of the Royal Yacht Club, the lieutenant was also a keen polo player and rode at race meetings. When the Spanish aviator, Lieut. Gallaza, had engine trouble in Macao in his flight from Spain to China, Lieut Maude was sent to assist him. While in Macao, the Hongkong aviator gave several demonstrations in aerial stunts to thrill the public.

Another resident who has passed away is Mr. John Bernard Moore, Wireless Superintendent of the China Navigation Company. He was operated upon the Peak Hospital, but ■ failed to rally and died.

A native of Hull, he came to the East under contract with the China Navigation Co. to inaugurate a school in Hongkong to train Chinese wireless operators. After a while, he was appointed Wireless Superintendent in charge of installations on board the Company's vessels and to supervise personnel of the department ashore and afloat.

FILIPINO FARMER AND RUBBER

Not So Keen to Cultivate on Small Holdings

Manila, Dec. 8.

The average Philippine farmer has given up the idea of growing rubber on small land holdings, judging from the utter lack of demand for rubber seedling for some time, according to Dr. Stanton Youngberg, director of the Bureau of Agriculture.

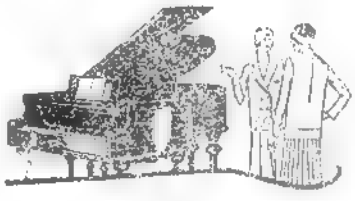
"The fever has subsided and the patient is now well on the road to normality," declared Dr. Youngberg.

Due to the absence of demand for the rubber seedling Dr. Youngberg says the disposal of about 1,500,000 of the new crop and several hundred thousand of the old crop has become a problem to the Bureau of Agriculture.

He states that in preparing an interest in rubber growing wanes the production of copra attracts attention and that the increased acreage planted to coconuts bear out this statement.

"The tiresome process of tapping rubber trees for the latex day in and day out 365 days a year does not appeal to the average Philippine farmer," declared Dr. Youngberg. "Besides, a rubber planter cannot begin to tap his trees until they are five years old. Considering the fact that the average age of a rubber tree is 25 years, and that in the 20th year the productivity of a tree begins to decline, it is easy to see why a small farmer does not take well to rubber growing."—Reuter.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 21.—It is announced that Cambridge will be represented at the Pennsylvania University relay races which will be held in April, 1927. The Cambridge team will be captained by the hurdler, Lord Burghley.—Ruter.



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A New Robinson

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SHANGHAI NEWS

DR. C. C. WU ON ANTI-FOREIGNISM

Suggested Solution of the Difficulty: Regional Negotiations for Treaty Amendment: Or Declarations of Future Willingness

Dr. Wu Chao-chu, M.A., LL.B., son of the late Dr. Wu Ting-fang who was formerly Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Southern Government and Mayor of Canton, was the speaker at Tuesday's tiffin at the Union Club of China, there being a very good attendance of members and their friends.

In introducing the speaker, Mr. R. Calder Marshall, chairman of the club, said that

The Decreasing World

"To our forefathers, international relations were of importance only in so far as contiguous states were concerned, but to-day, owing to the great facilities for travel and the speeding up of all means of transport, all countries throughout the world are neighbouring countries and we are, therefore, in this generation, very much interested in the study of international relations with all countries.

"A couple of nights ago, I was looking at comparative scale maps, showing how, since 1800, the cutting of the Suez Canal, rapid steam transit and finally the airship had by lessening the time of transit between various points, reduced the map in 1926 to about 1/30th of the size in 1800. This propinquity, of course, brings with it many additional problems which did not exist in 1800 but, at the same time, it brings the solution, for increased facilities for travel mean more contacts and if we use these contacts aright and establish closer and more friendly intercourse and have a freer exchange of thought and opinion we shall have a greater appreciation of each other's difficulties and aspirations and there will be no room for misunderstanding or, if misunderstandings do arise, frank and friendly explanations will soon readjust matters. Though we are all nationalists and love our countries, we know that what is best for one country must ultimately be best for all. I do not mean transient benefit but true and lasting progress.

The Wish for Peace

"Now-a-days, no one can be a disinterested spectator of the affairs of other countries for, what affects one, affects all as is indicated by sensitive barometer of the money market of the world. What we want is that this barometer should register 'Set Fair' and that commerce should flow normally without excessive fluctuation due to abnormal and unsettled conditions. A few weeks ago, Mr. Lampson speaking here said 'All we want is to be able to pursue our lawful business in peace and security.' That is all any of us want anywhere in the world and if we have that we shall be satisfied.

"Since Dr. Wu's return to China he has held many high administrative governmental positions and has gained much experience and we shall I know be interested in what he has to tell us."

Dr. Wu's Reply

Dr. Wu, in response, said that he heartily endorsed the statement that speeches after dinner were crimes but that those after luncheon were vices. (Laughter) He thanked the members of the Club for their invitation to tiffin and recalled the fact that the last time he attended the Union Club it was in another building. The present quarters were far more comfortable and certainly more luxurious than the others. The prosperity of the Union Club of China was a good sign of international understanding and friendship. The business man in China unfortunately had very few opportunities to get into touch and come together, particularly on social lines, with his Chinese friends, his time seeming to be more engaged and occupied in the buying and selling of goods and chattels and in the incoming and outgoing of dollars and cents, particularly the incoming, so that a Club such as this gave an opportunity of coming into contact outside business. This, said Dr. Wu, was very encouraging and important. It was a good thing. Aside from the social contact, there was the political understanding which was equally as important.

"Speaking as a citizen of China and a member of that political party which is being spoken about so often nowadays, the Kuomintang, will you please allow me to say that we, as a party and as a nation, want to be friends with all foreign nations," said Dr. Wu (Applause) "We have no exclusion or jealousy with any single country. We want to be friends with everybody. As individuals, as a party and as a nation we want ■ have as many friends as possible.

The Obstacle to Friendship

"Unfortunately, there is a certain obstacle to complete the friendship between China and the great Powers. I refer to the treaties. One of the Shanghai foreign dailies took me to task, a few days ago, on account of an indiscreet speech I made recently. In that, I tried to give the Chinese point of view in regard to the treaties. I did not try to incite anti-foreignism, as I was accused of. It is foolish to conceal from ourselves facts and facts that foreigners have ■ face in the Chinese attitude towards the so-called unequal treaties.

"When analyzed, these are reduced to two privileges,—extra-territoriality and a conventional tariff. They are no doubt valuable privileges for foreigners in China, but, when we come to look closely in these days, their importance is greatly over-emphasized. Conditions now are very different from 80 or 90 years ago. The privileges of extraterritoriality have not been able to prevent foreigners from having to remove almost wholesale from Chinese cities in the interior. The conventional tariff has not been able to give foreigners in the last two or three years as much business and profit as they would like and, indeed, it has caused considerable losses to some foreign firms. You will agree with me that these privileges which looked so very valuable 80 years ago are not so important or valuable to-day and, with the present tide of rising nationalism in China, these treaties are obstacles to cordial friendship which we should like to see exist.

"I think you agree with me also that the fundamental alteration or revision of the old treaties is necessary. The question has often been asked me 'What can we do now.' There is no government in China. If we want to make the changes, who shall we negotiate with?' Pertinent questions indeed. In regard to this point I have a practical suggestion to make. It seems to me that the foreign Powers may do one or both of these two things.

The Way to do it

"If there is a government which controls a portion of China and which you think will control the whole of China one of these days you can at once come to an understanding with that government on a regional basis or a declaration can be made by the foreign governments that, as soon as a government exists in China, recognized by the whole of the country and able to maintain peace and order throughout the Republic, you will at once make the alterations in the treaties which the Chinese people desire. That mode of declaration had been resorted to before and has these two advantages. In the first place, it is not necessary for 16 to 20 big and small Powers to come to an agreement before anything can be done: any one country can make a declaration of policy. In the second place, there is always the suspicion in the Chinese mind that the foreigner is rather reluctant to give up the old privileges so if a foreignor or any foreign country can make a declaration vis-à-vis of these treaties, it would remove the last obstacle to friendship and a substantial understanding." (Applause).

LAST SATURDAY'S ANNIVERSARY

Memorial Meetings for Executed Labour Leader, Liu Hua, and Some Resolutions

Chinese labour circles were considerably stirred up over the week-end by celebrations in honour of the memory of Liu Hua, radical labour leader, who is alleged to have been executed by the Chinese authorities a year ago Saturday. No large demonstration was made but several labour organizations held meetings at which violent speeches were made, the usual resolutions passed and handbills given out.

About 100 representatives of local labour unions held a meeting in Jukong Road at 2 p.m., which was presided over by an ex-interpreter of the Japan-China cotton mill. The meeting opened with a three minute silence after which several persons spoke of the work done by Liu and done by Liu and urged all to carry on in the same spirit. They condemned Marshal Sun Chuan-fang for causing the execution of the labour leader. Following the speeches resolutions were passed to the effect that:—1. All workers be urged to prepare to revenge the death of Liu Hua; 2. That the following slogans be adopted, "Long live Liu Hua," "Let us avenge the death of our patriot," "Beat down the wicked militarists," "Long live the General Labour Union."

MR. R. J. GLENDENNING

The Chief Traffic Inspector of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway who is retiring on December 31 after 20 years' service and will settle in Australia, his birthplace.

In the Yangtszepoo district when the mills turned out from work in the evening several groups of agitators banded and fired off crackers outside the mills in honour of Liu Hua and another executed agitator named Tan Chin-shun. Throughout this district and in the Gordon Road, Louza and Sinza districts as well handbills were distributed which read, "Liu Hua was shot secretly by Sun Chuan-fang. He died for the welfare of the labourers. Overthrow Sun Chuan-fang and continue the unfinished struggle for the freedom of Shanghai workers." (Sgd.) The Shanghai General Labour Union.

About 170 members of the Seamen's Union met at West Gate at 7 a.m. and marched from there to the East Gate firing off crackers and shouting slogans. They took the day as a means of trying to form a Wharf Coolies' Union, handbills urging that this step be taken being found in several places in the Wayside district.

About 300 workers of the British Cigarette Co's. factory in Pootung met during the afternoon. The meeting lasted only about five minutes when it was broken up by the police. About a half hour later one man was arrested and found to be in possession of a bundle of inflammatory handbills.

We understand that an investigation is being made by a Dr. Tai of the cost of living locally. An official report will be issued later.

A SIKH watchman's attention to duty at 283 Whitfield Road on Monday night at 10.49 o'clock prevented five men, armed with iron bars and axes, from stealing clothing and jewellery. A Sikh constable gave chase and caught one of the gang.

SHANGHAI'S NEW PILOT SHIP

Successful Launching of the Hsin Yangtze at Pootung

Although the day was cold there were many interested spectators present on Tuesday afternoon at the Pootung Shipyard of the Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co. taken over by special launch to witness the launching of the Shanghai Pilot Boat Co.'s new str. Hsin Yangtze.

Mrs. A. Hotson, wife of the local Harbour Master, performed the ceremony and the newly christened vessel glided smoothly down the slip-ways into the water without a hitch.

This part of the ceremony over the guests assembled in the rooms in Messrs. Boyd & Co.'s building where champagne and cakes were served and the health of the Hsin Yangtze proposed.

Hopes for the Future

The first speaker was Mr. H. W. Lester, chairman of the Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co. builders of the vessel, who spoke on behalf of that company. "The Hsin Yangtze so successfully launched," he said, "marks a further step in the progress of this port. Built under Lloyd's special survey for their highest classification she is 190 feet long overall and 34 ft. in breadth. She is to be fitted with modern triple expansion engines of over 1,200 horse power and in addition to this no less than 15 sets of independent steam engines are fitted for the different auxiliary requirements. Many of you present can look back about 25 years when the pilot service was maintained here by sailing schooners, and, when the first steam pilot boat came into service in 1902 and the second, the Yangtze, in 1906 it was felt that the last word was said. But Shanghai was just beginning to open out and now with the "Hsin, (or new,) Yangtze" I think that most of us agree that the present and near future is well provided for.

"During the construction of the vessel we have had a great many difficulties to contend with including the disastrous coal strike in Britain and civil wars and other troubles very near our own doors, but I hope our efforts to carry out this contract without undue delay will appeal to our friends, the Shanghai Pilot Boat Co. It is the first large vessel we have built for them and while they may not be in the market in the near future we trust the results will justify our hope that the next vessel will be built in the same berth as this one."

Toast to New Ship

Mr. Lester then proposed the health of the new ship and her owners and a reply was made on behalf of the Shanghai Pilot Boat Co. by Capt. George Philip, secretary of the Company. He toasted the builders and this was replied to by Mr. W. S. Burns, Managing Director of the Dock Co. who also proposed the health of Mrs. Hotson and asked her to accept as a small souvenir of her kind assistance a beautiful bouquet of carnations and a gold combined mesh bag and vanity case. Mr. Hotson replied for his wife.

Mr. Lester also proposed the health of the guests coupled with the name of Mr. F. W. Maze who in his reply.

Mr. F. E. H. Groeman, Consul General for the Netherlands and Consular Representative on the Pilot Board, also spoke and wished prosperous times to the Pilots' Association.

Among the guests present were:—Mr. F. E. H. Groeman, Consul-General for the Netherlands and Consular Representative on the Pilot Board, Captain A. Hotson, Harbour Master and Mrs. Hotson, Mr. H. L. Fletcher, Lloyd's Surveyor and Mrs. Fletcher, Captain G. Philip, Secretary of The Shanghai Pilot Boat Co. (1924) Ld., Misses Thomson, Mr. Wm. Lyle representating Messrs. Kisler, Reeves, Murphy & Tipple, Surveyors to the Shanghai Pilot Boat Co., Mr. J. J. Keegan, Captain E. H. Gowing, Captain Benson, Mr. F. W. Maze, Commissioner of Customs, Captain and Mrs. H. A. Arnold, Captain and Mrs. N. R. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. P. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Hepburn, Captain and Mrs. A. S. Malcolm, Mr. S. C. Kingsbury, representing the American Chamber of Commerce, Mr. T. A. Clark, Mr. W. J. Davey, Mr. and Mrs. W. Thomson, Mr. J. G. Irvine, Mr. G. D. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. S. Burgess, Captain J. E. Evans, Captain and Mrs. S. F. Jorgensen, Captain and Mrs. T. Fleming, Captain A. E. Jackson, Mrs. W. J. Walker, Captain and Mrs. G. W. Crum, Mr. and Mrs. Ray, Captain W. R. Boyd, Captain F. H. Jeune, Captain J. T. Kinley, Captain and Mrs. F. Scurr, Mr. H. W. Lester, Chairman of The Shanghai Dock Co., Mr. W. S. Burns, Managing Director of The Shanghai Dock Co. and Mr. D. Turnbull, Manager of the Dock Co.

EMINENT GUESTS AT SHANGHAI COLLEGE

Series of Lectures by Noted Professors: Scott's Journey to South Pole

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

During the past two weeks Shanghai College has had the benefit of hearing echoes from the Pan-Pacific Scientific Congress, which was held in Tokyo in November. Our own delegate, Dr. George B. Cressey, gave the students some informative and entertaining lectures about the Congress and what it accomplished. Also through his instrumentality the college was favoured with visits of some of the prominent delegates to the Congress.

Professor Griffith Taylor of the University of Sydney gave a very interesting lecture concerning his travels in the regions near the South Pole. This was accompanied by lantern views, showing pictures of the way the expedition was carried on, the animals, birds, fishes, that were encountered near the base from which they started; also the hut in which the explorers lived, and the sledges and scientific instruments which they used. Pictures were also shown of the ill-fated Captain Scott and his four companions, who reached the Pole in 1912 but perished on their way home, eleven miles from the hut.

Other visitors were Professor George H. Parker of Harvard, the venerable Dr. Bailey Willis of Stanford, whose geological travels in China and whose textbook on Geology have interested many Chinese students; and President Wallace W. Atwood of Clark University, Mass., who is the author of some well known textbooks on Geography. The last named gave a very interesting and instructive lecture on International Relations.

The Tokyo Congress

Professor Cressey, Shanghai College delegate to the Congress, read a paper before the Congress on "The Climate of the Glacial Period in Eastern Asia." Dr. Cressey reported that the Congress at Tokyo consisted of nearly 600 delegates from 20 countries; 160 of them from outside of Japan; all of whom were lavishly entertained at banquets, dinners, receptions, garden parties, luncheons, theatres. Before, during, and after the Congress carefully prepared and guided excursions were held, which took the guests from Hokkaido in the north to the extreme south. Full provision for guides and passage to all points were made by the Japanese government. Elaborate guide books and specially engraved maps were furnished. Some guests went to study Hot Springs, Ainu villages, volcanoes, copper mines, fossil localities, and observe the research being carried on in the biological experiment stations. Thousands of school children lined the streets to welcome the guests.

The next Congress of the Pacific Science Association will be held in Java in 1929.

With reference to the Chinese Citizens Diplomatic Association's manifesto referred to in our issue of the seventh instant we have made inquiries of the local representatives of the Eastern Extension and the Great Northern Telegraph Companies and learn that the said Companies are not negotiating with the Chinese Government for prolongation of their agreements and especially have no intention of asking for prolongation of their monopoly.

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BISHOP OF LONDON IN SHANGHAI

Reception at the Consulate-General and a Presentation: Cathedral Crowded

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Arthur Winnington Ingram, K.C.V.O., Bishop of London, arrived in Shanghai by the P. & O. S. Khiva on Saturday, accompanied by his chaplain, the Rev. H. C. Thomas, and Mr. O. A. Blyth, an old friend. The Bishop was met on board by Sir Sidney Barton, K.B.E., C.M.G., H. M. Consul-General; the Rt. Rev. H. J. Molony, D.D., Bishop in Mid-China, the Very Rev. C. J. F. Symons, Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral; Lord Addington, Mr. A. C. Clear, the Dean's Warden; Mr. E. Gordon Lowder, former Commissioner of Customs; Mr. and Mrs. P. W. O. Liddell, Mr. and Mrs. Napier, Mrs. Symons, Mr. Walker, and others.

After tiffin on board the Khiva, the Bishop came ashore in the tender Alexandra. Immediately after his arrival, he motored out to the Hungjao Golf Club where he played a foursome with Mr. Clear, Mr. Napier and his chaplain.

During his stay here he was the guest of Dean and Mrs. Symons. On Saturday night he dined at the Consulate with Sir Sidney and Lady Barton; on Sunday Dean and Mrs. Symons gave a luncheon party for him and later on tea at the Consulate, by the kindness of Sir Sidney and Lady Barton, to introduce members of the Cathedral congregation and other friends. Then in the evening the Bishop dined with Mr. and Mrs. Percy Liddell.

There was an enormous crowd at the Consulate in the afternoon, everyone moving up in a long queue to be introduced and the Bishop nevertheless having time for some friendly talk with all. At the end of the afternoon a pleasant little ceremony took place. The Bishop is the Prelate of the Order of the British Empire and the members of the Order in Shanghai (there are about 20 of them) assembled at the Consulate and presented him with a souvenir, Mennie's Pictures of the Yangtze Gorges with a special inscription.

Very few functions have created greater interest in Shanghai. In view of this it is worth recording the names of those (all of whom are either Members or hold higher rank in the Order) who joined in the presentation, these being as follows:—Sir S. Barton, H. M. Consul-General; Mr. E. G. Jameson, H. M. Consul; Mr. G. W. King, Registrar of H. M. Supreme Court; Mr. M. Phillips, H. M. Consul; Mr. H. A. F. B. Archer, H. M. Vice-Consul; Dr. E. G. Gauntlett, Lt.-Col T. E. Trueman, Mr. L. E. Canning, Mr. Bernard Firth, Captain G. S. Weigall, Mr. E. R. Cartwright, Col. R. M. C. Ruxton, Mr. W. W. England, the Rt. Hon. Lord Addington, Dr. J. Darroch, Lt.-Col. P. A. Cox, Mrs. Graham Barrow, Major J. T. Ford, Mr. J. C. Bousstow, Mr. H. E. Middleton, Mr. J. E. Needham and Mr. W. G. Clarke.

The Old Marlborough boys in Shanghai had been hoping to entertain the Bishop, but unfortunately the limit to his stay prevented this.

The Cathedral was crowded to its utmost capacity on Sunday morning; long before the hour of service every seat was full and many people stood all through the service. Before it the Bishop found time to look in at the children's service in the school and say a few words to them. In the procession there were, besides the Dean and the Rev. W. Robbins:—Bishop Molony, Bishop Graves, Dr. F. L. Hawks Pott, the Rev. W. E. Godson, the Rev. Throop, the Rev. Weigall and the Rev. A. E. Evans. Dean Symons took most of the service, Mr. Robbins reading the later prayers. Bishop Molony read the first Lesson and Bishop Graves the second.

A full report of the Bishop of London's sermon will be found on another page.

After the Cathedral service the Bishop christened the daughter, Moira Hope, of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. E. Jones.

The Bishop left Shanghai on Tuesday morning at about 4 o'clock on board the str. President Lincoln after an extremely full engagement calendar on Monday. He spoke at the Cathedral School for Girls at 11.30 on Monday morning, lunched at St. John's University with Bishop Graves and Dr. Hawks-Pott later, and then went to the Country Club for a game of squash rackets with his chaplain, Dr. H. C. Thomas. He was the guest of Mrs. P.W.O. Liddel at the Club for tea and shortly after this Dr. Ingram paid a visit to the British Consulate to thank Sir Sydney and Lady Barton for the kindness which they had extended during his brief stay. The hour after this his Lordship was "at home" to numerous visitors at the Deanery until dinner time. After an early dinner at the Deanery he went on board his ship where he had been given the bridal suite to travel in. Accompanying him to the jetty were Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Clear and Miss Clear, Lord Addington, Prof. and Mrs. M. P. Walker, Mr. A. E. Lanning, the Very Rev. Dean and Mrs. Symons and Miss Symons and Mrs. Napier, the latter five of whom saw his Lordship on board the ship.

The Right Rev. Arthur Winnington Ingram, Lord Bishop of London

THE ARRIVAL OF MR. CHAPMAN

Former Clerk of U. S. Court a Passenger by the Jefferson

W. A. Chapman, former Clerk of the United States Court for China, arrived in Shanghai last Friday morning at about 9 o'clock in the Admiral Line str. President Jefferson. He was met at the deck by Mr. Thurston Porter, United States Marshal and Mr. William Van Buskirk, United States Deputy Marshal and taken into custody and escorted to the American Gaol, where he is now awaiting trial on charges of having embezzled and converted to his own use more than M. $30,000 of the Court funds.

After having accepted a decision of the Federal District Courts of Washington, although he appealed to the Circuit Court, Chapman was returned to Shanghai under the Removal Act. Officials of King County, Washington, placed him on the President Jefferson in charge of Capt. Nicholls, who in turn delivered him to the authorities here. A special launch was provided which came to the N.Y.K. Wharf, the party going immediately to the American Consular compound.

Dr. George Sellett, United States District Attorney, is prosecuting Chapman on charges of embezzlement, drawn up by Mr. L. G. Husar, former District Attorney on July 24. The case for the Government is understood to be ready.

INCREASED number of refugees are coming in to the from Chêkiang to the Settlement, according ■ the Chinese press. The steam launch running between Ping-hu and Shanghai, was packed and every nook and corner of the middle class lodging houses in the International and French Concessions are occupied.

PRESENTATION TO MRS. DAVENPORT

Tribute to Her Work in the Shantung Road Hospital

A very pleasing, though in some aspects a sad, ceremony took place last Friday morning in the matron's office of the Shantung Road Hospital, when the Chinese Staff, male and female, presented Mrs. Davenport with a beautiful silver plaque, tastefully engraved in Chinese with the words, "Loving others as you love yourself," in remembrance of her long years of service and friendship, with her husband, Dr. Davenport, who so recently passed away. All of the Chinese Staff who could be spared from duty crowded into the room, together with Dr. Fowler, the Acting Medical Superintendent, and others of the foreign staff.

Dr. Tsang, one of the senior doctors who had worked with Dr. Davenport from very early days, in making the presentation, spoke with much feeling of the many years several of those present had been associated with Dr. and Mrs. Davenport in the hospital, during which thousands of his fellow countrymen had received inestimable benefit from their hands. Such goodness would never be forgotten. In all of these good deeds Mrs. Davenport had been a help both in the home and in the hospital, and they wished her to carry away this little memento to remind her of many days of useful service spent in China.

Mr. Tong, head of the shroff's department, also added a few words expressing the hope of all that Mrs. Davenport would be able to return to China.

Mrs. Davenport in her reply thanked the Staff for their kindness, reminded them that her husband had practically given his life for the Chinese, and urged them to remain faithful and true to the hospital which had done and was still doing so much for their fellow countrymen.

The incident, simple and spontaneous as it was, is another proof of the kindly friendly feeling obtaining in many British institutions between the members of the Chinese and foreign staff.

The sympathy and best wishes of thousands of Chinese and foreign friends will ■ with Mrs. Davenport and her daughters as they leave Shanghai next Tuesday.

We understand the Chinese Staff have also, on their own initiative, subscribed a good sum of money wherewith to place a lasting memorial of Dr. Davenport's years of service, in the proposed new hospital.

GEN. Huang Fu, former premier, and an important supporter of Gen. Feng Yu-hsiang, is reported to have arrived in Shanghai, though his mission has not been definitely made known.

TEN ARISTOCRATIC VISITORS

A Party on the President Jefferson: Best That Seattle Can Produce

Hearing that ten celebrities were due to arrive last Friday morning at Shanghai from Seattle by the President Jefferson, a reporter from this office with great haste was put into touch with the gentleman who was to meet them and, at 9.30 in the morning, boarded the Dollar launch which was making for the recently arrived vessel.

Once on board the President liner these celebrities, aristocrats as they might almost be called, were somewhat hard to find but after many excursions, which included the purser's office and very nearly the officers' quarters, they were finally run to ground on the after deck where they, all ten of them, stood or laid, chewing contentedly and gazing about with placid eyes.

Queens of the Cattle Kingdom

The ten, all cows, are being brought to China,—imported sounds too coarse a word,—by Mr. A. M. A. Evans of the Inshallah Dairy & Stock Co. who all his life has been in charge of animals of one sort or another and is here owner of a farm on which there will now be almost 60 animals.

These particular beasts come from from the Carnation Milk Farm, Carnation, Washington, near Seattle, where thousands of head of cattle are bred and raised, some of them being among the very finest animals of their kind in the world. Each has a wonderful pedigree and a register of all the animals born on this and similar farms is kept by the U.S. Government, together with its name, number and a scale drawing of a particular mark on each beast, so that there can be no tampering with the animals and each is absolutely what it claims to be.

A Record Journey

These ten, all of whom are ■-tween two and three years old, were ordered by telegram from the Carnation Farm on November 20, they were selected and shipped within ten days, arrangements having in the meantime been made for their travelling by the Dollar line, a thing which had not been done before, and have now all arrived in Shanghai exactly 27 days after the first order for them was sent. Surely one of the quickest transhipments of large livestock to China, that has ever been made.

Excellent Travellers

For the journey each of the cows was placed in a large crate made on the lines of a stall, with just enough room ■ stand up and lie down and thickly padded with straw and hay. They were shipped on board by cranes, crate and all, and placed on the deck where they remained until they reached Shanghai. "Cows," said Mr. Evans, and we can quite believe it, "travel much better than horses, for they are of a more placid nature and not so nervous and highly strung.

Vanity Bags and Face Cream

The President Jefferson this time encountered some dirty weather, according to the officers, but the cows did not mind much and have all arrived ■ very fit condition. As soon as the storm started the crates, by the officers' orders were covered with large pieces of tarpaulin and kept as dry as possible. All the way three or four men, specially detailed, cared for the cows—supplying them with the daily necessities of their sex, vanity bags, face cream and the like—and they certainly carried out their work with great success, even curing one of the ladies of a little cold in the eye, of which there is now not the slightest trace.

They are enormous, handsome black and white beasts all of them with gentle eyes and large, delightfully wet pink and black noses, and, except for one which was rather inclined to ■ fretful and peevish, are all very friendly. They were taken from the President Jefferson the same afternoon by lighter and moved down to the Inshallah Dairy's grounds by the Woosung Road, near the Shanghai College where there are large pastures and stables and where they will remain for some time yet before being moved to the milking farm in Ward Road.

FATHER'S APPEAL FOR SON

Pathetic Document Addressed to Kidnappers Through Newspaper

The following unusual and plaintive appeal was published in yesterday's issue of the Chinese newspaper *"Shunpao"* by a Chinese merchant named Chang Zung-ching, whose eight-year-old son was recently kidnapped and who claims not to have enough money for the ransom:—

"Of late people have taken me for a wealthy man and approached me for money. All my friends and relatives know that I am not. Certain persons have caused me much suffering by abducting my little eight-year-old son and four weeks have now passed since I have had any news of him. People think me rich because I have recently built houses. I wish to say that I have land in Chapei handed down by my ancestors which is worth $2,000. Added to this, I have $2,000 which I have accumulated and a further $2,000 which I borrowed from my friends to build the house. I have not yet returned this.

"I have four sons and three daughters. My sons have not yet reached the age where they are capable of earning their own living and my daughters are not yet married. I have a family of 10 all dependent upon my salary. If anyone should want to borrow from me I could not comply.

"You have asked me to appoint a day on which to meet you in private and discuss matters (ransom). I would like to inform you that it is of no use ■ I have not the possessions to satisfy you. I am telling the truth.

"I believe that anyone who upholds humanity can never be so cruel as to harm an innocent boy. I earnestly hope that you will send him back soon, for which my family and myself will be very grateful."

FRENCH COUNCIL AND ROADS

Reason for Bad Condition of Avenue Foch

Officials of the French Secretariat stated to our representative on Tuesday who called to obtain their view on the recent agitation regarding road repairs, as discussed in the correspondence columns of the "North-China Daily News," that the F.M.C. and its Public Works Department were giving much thought to the subject.

At a meeting of the Council which lasted very late on Monday night, a spirited discussion took place over the repair question, especially the condition of Avenue Foch. The Council seemed unanimous in deciding that this road must receive attention as soon as weather conditions permit. It was brought up by the Engineer-in-Chief, Mr. H. de Boisezon, L.E.L.M., that repairs had been going on space until the sudden freeze two weeks ago which was followed by the severe rains. Under these conditions only temporary measures could be utilized. The cold snap of the past two or three days will again delay the work.

It was agreed by the officials seen on Tuesday that the present paving was of a poor texture, but they say that it is merely a substitute until such time when asphalting, or some other useful surfacing could be laid. This has already been started on parts of the road but cannot be completed for many months.

It was also mentioned that the work done in connexion with the paving of the bridle path which used to be in the middle of the road has done much to delay the work of paving it correctly.

Consideration has also been given to the work of repairing the other roads which were brought to the public attention in our correspondence, and in this regard the Council are of the opinion that all possible is being done at the present to remedy the situation and that it will be a matter of time before all roads will receive the proper attention.

THE acceptance of parcels for places on the Yangtze beyond Hankow has been suspended.

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FRENCH TRAMWAY STRIKE

Conductors and Motormen Stop Work for Reasons Not Yet Known

Between three and four hundred conductors and motormen in the employ of the French Tramway Co. went on strike on Tuesday morning stopping tram traffic all day in the Concession. It is believed that the strikers are working for an increase in wages, but officials of the company state that not a single demand has yet been presented to them, nor have they any intimation as to why the men walked out.

One official told a representative of the "North-China Daily News" on Tuesday afternoon that the men quit their posts on Monday night as usual and without declaring their intentions of not showing up for work the following morning. At 6 o'clock on Tuesday morning when the trams are supposed to start running not a single conductor or motorman was on hand, although the other employees such as the inspectors, point men, etc., came to work. The workers in the power plant also showed up, as well as those in the work shops. The latter were put on a tram and sent to the shops, this being the only car that moved from the sheds all day.

The officials were at loss to know the cause of the strike, they said, no demands having been presented. They say, however, that should the strikers present their grievances to the company they will be considered fairly. In this regard, they say that when the men asked for an increase in wages some 15 months ago the matter was taken up and an increase granted, which seemed to satisfy all. In the present case no representative of the strikers approached them prior to the strike, and for this reason they are doubtful if the real cause is on account of wages.

A Well Laid Scheme

On the other hand, it was learned from an outside source, but a well-authenticated one, that there has been some agitation amongst the motormen and conductors now for several days, meetings having been held for the purpose of discussing the proposed strike.

This theory seems to be well grounded from the fact that a handbill, alleged to be the one giving the order to strike, was found on Tuesday. A translation of the leaflet reads:—

"Fellow workers! Our demand for an increase of wages was submitted three days ago and the management has given us no reply. Moreover, the management has, on slight pretext, dismissed conductors and motormen. Our condition is unbearable! All tramway employees are to go on strike to-day, December 21, and to await a settlement of the dispute. In the meantime all of you should strictly observe the orders issued by the employees' union." Sgd. The French Tramway Co. and Waterworks Employees' Union.

When news of the strike had been conveyed to the offices of the Shanghai Tramway Co. in the Settlement, they ordered that all their cars running into the French Concession be put on different routes.

It is said that the striking employees have sent pickets into Chinese territory to try and persuade the Chinese Tramway employees also to strike, but up to on Tuesday night their efforts had failed. There were also rumours of isolated cases of conductors and motormen of the Shanghai Tramways being approached by pickets but trams in the Settlement are still running normally.

Rickshaw Coolies' Chance

We were unable on Tuesday to check accurately the amount of money the conductors and motormen of the affected tramway are receiving. It is said that they are paid by the day on a sliding scale basis, their wages depending on the number of years in service.

In all there are about 65 trams and 14 railless trams affected, these being kept in the tram depot in Avenue Dubail. No attempts were made by the strikers to cause trouble in the vicinity of the sheds, but as a precaution, squads of Annamites were posted in the compound to guard the place.

Practically all of the traffic usually done by the tramcars was thrust upon rickshas and the pullers were getting quite fancy prices for their work. All the way from the tram terminus in the Western district along Avenue Joffre and Rue du Consulat to the Bund great strings of rickshas made their way. So thick were they along Rue du Consulat that motor cars had trouble passing during the rush hour.

Hopes for the Holidays

Officials of the French Tramways Co. at a late hour on Wednesday stated that the situation regarding the strike of motormen and conductors employed by them was the same as on Tuesday, with one exception,—the men had presented them with a series of demands on which they absented themselves from work. The officials of the company, who were in conference at the time, disagreed as to policy and their spokesman thought it best for the moment not to make an official statement.

The rail lines in the French Concession on Wednesday were without vehicles, the condition being the same as during the previous 24 hours. No announcement was made as to when the strike would be ended, although the hope was expressed that a satisfactory agreement would be arrived at before the holiday, which would ensure normal traffic conditions during this period.

The Men's Demands

The demands of the workmen, which have been published by the vernacular press, follow:—

(1). That no unreasonable fines ■ imposed on motormen and conductors and no motormen or conductors be assaulted or abused in future.

(2). That raincoats be issued to motormen.

(3). That a general increase of pay be given to all workers and that one month's pay ■ issued to workers at the end of the year as bonus.

(4). That the number of working hours per day be fixed at eight.

(5). That a sum of $3 be issued to a motorman who performs 20 days duty in a month.

(6). That motorman No. 23 and conductors Nos. 152 and 44 be reinstated.

(7). That no workers be dismissed without cause.

(8). That an increase of 20 per cent. be given ■ those who draw monthly pay of more than $24 and 30 per cent. to those who draw a monthly pay of less than $20.

(9). That pay ■ issued for the period of the strike.

(10). That the Company recognise the Workers' Association as the representative organ of the workers.

A NOVEL STRIKE IN SHANGHAI

Old Clothes Stores' Employees Cease Work

The strike of the employees of second-hand clothing stores in Fokien Road, which started on Saturday morning has now extended to the French Concession and Chinese territory and it is estimated that now there are about 3,000 persons of this occupation out of work. Several meetings have been held by the shopkeepers guild, but so far no conditions that are acceptable to the workers have yet been agreed upon.

The strike started when an agitation was started by the employees of the shops along Fokien Road to be paid a monthly wage instead of the usual commissions which they have received as remunerntion for their services. They, likewise have held several meetings and have distributed handbills over the various districts in the concessions and native cities, as well as sent out pickets to all shops of the kind. Several arrests were made on Saturday, but all were released after being cautioned.

At 1 p.m. on Saturday the pickets who had been sent out re-assembled at the headquarters which have been established in Fokien Road and explained their demands to the committee of the guild and said that all shops had agreed to close if their demands were not granted immediately. The members of the guild held a meeting immediately afterward, but could come to no decision as to what action to take in the matter.

Nearly 100 of the employers met on Monday and agreed to offer a 20 per cent. increase to those on a fixed wage, that an increase of two to three per cent. be granted to those who work on commission, and that representatives should be appointed to deal with the strikers.

The strike has now been settled. It is stated that the agreement arrived at includes an approximate 30 per cent. increase in wages, being an average of ■ per month increase.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SHOPPING

The Artful Advertizer: Efficient Sales Women and the Bashful Young Man

Despite the Christmas shoppers onrush, which is generally described as not wisely but too well done, Shanghai salesmen and ladies in local shops retain their bland smile and can be expected to do ■ until the closing hour on Christmas Eve when the last frantic buyer has made his last desparate and all but forgotten purchase. The reason for this high good humour on the part of local dispensers from behind counters is two-fold. First, there is no place like the other side of the counter to get amusing side-lights on human nature at Christmas time, and secondly and much more to the point, the Christmas shopping season has been an unusually good one for shop-keepers.

Just as that indefinable something known as atmosphere envelops one the instant certain thresholds are crossed, so Shanghai shop-keepers declare that this season bears the stamp of prosperity and good nature. To retain the latter while doing, either the Christmas shopping, or the waiting on the Christmas shopper, is proof enough that the season has not seen a slump.

What people buy is the indication of their nature—and the indication of clever advertising on the part of shops—these same shops declare. This year has seen an unusually clever display in windows which in some instances claim to have set certain of the season's fads and fashions. It ■ not easy to deny the fact that a well-timed exhibit of fancy dress costume ■ all the latest tricks of the trade may have had something to do with the crop of fancy dress dances this year. And this is only one example out of many which shop managers are able to whisper slyly about the Shanghai public.

The assistant in the novelty and sheerly feminine departments gets perhaps the most chuckles out of her job. There come to her confiding ears all manner of inquiries. She is considered as lucrative and inexhaustible as a bran-pie for producing gift suggestions, and it must be confessed that she develops a canny sixth sense during her one week in the year when her opinion is law unto the masses.

She can tell you about the nice old gentlemen whose independent spirit carried him through long lists of gift stockings, handkerchiefs and neat little novelty odds and ends, but who finally showed a white feather at the prospect of buying a girl of six a Christmas present. "What would you suggest" came the disconsolate inquiry. "How about a book" came the encouraging answer. But the old gentleman was not to be so easily mislead. "No, damit," his voice boomed, "She would want me to read every blinking word of it to her."

Shy young men forget their inhibitions in discussing with the saleslaadies what they can get for their best girls. Under the beaming warmth of a kindly attendant in one shop, such a young man who stammered over a "What do you think she would like" grew bolder until at the end he was having a parcel sent to her address consisting of orange and black quilted boudoir slippers, silk stockings and garters, at the helpful lady's suggestion.

Among other points brought out in male psychology is the one appreciated inclination they have to buy first and inquire of prices afterwards. Women want to get a Christmas present at about say something like so many dollars. Men may show surprise mildly at the price-tag when the thought finally occurs to them, but they never lay the gift back neatly on its counter-place through this surprise, saleslaadies declare.

Novelties are going very well this year, shop-keepers say. And there is no indication that higher priced articles are not purchased even more than lower priced ones.

Buy First, Price After

Among the book-sellers the taste of Shanghai goes definitely toward the more expensive gift books. Leather bound volumes, handsomely illustrated ones and all the quaint or valuable publications attract the gift seeker. Books on China are especially popular this season, and Shanghai shows a definitely unique book taste in the fact that comparatively few novels are sold as Christmas gifts. Outlines of history, Atlases and similar books of a serious — and expensive — nature eventually find their resting place at the foot of Christmas trees. Poetry is one of the most popular manifestations of a "Merry Christmas" in Shanghai, and the hunting or sporting books, filled with quaint old sporting prints never lack a purchaser.

Where does all the money come from is the question which most of us ask, when being informed by all the shops that people are buying expensive gifts, ranging from magnificent books to extravagent bauble, from handsome articles of wearing apparel to stunning bibelots, not to forget the high-priced and amazingly well constructed children's toys this year. People in the homelands are at liberty to blame it on the chit system, if they like. But personal observation makes one imagine that the shop's wouldn't be so cheerful if this were the case.

OBITUARY

Mr. Herbert E. Webb

The funeral services for the late Mr. Herbert E. Webb, formerly editor of the "China Press," was held on Sunday afternoon in the chapel of the International Funeral Directors at 3 o'clock. The Rev. A. C. S. Trivett conducted the service at the chapel and subsequently at the Hungjao Road Cemetery.

A large number friends and former associates of deceased attended both the chapel service and that at the cemetery. The pallbearers were Messrs. W. A. Adams, Carl Crow, J. Grant, H. O. Hanhagen, C. J. Laval and T. Millard. Among those who sent wreaths were:—

Cercle Sportif Francais, Marine Engineers Institute, Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. W. Chambers, Messrs. H. S. Niles, J. Lyons, Tony Popovitch, O. B. Gainsborough, Hodds, J. Logan, Harris, W. A. Adams, H. D. Hashagen, F. J. Courtney, F. Barton, S. M. Surber, J. H. Grant, H. B. Longfellow, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil McBain, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Hyde, Mrs. F. Parlani, Editorial Department "China Press," directors "China Press," management and staff Majestic Hotel and W. A. Debereck, a Friend, Mr. Anderson, Mr. McWatt, Mrs. Annie Kivan, Mrs. J. T. McDermott, Mr. and Mrs. Fayrer, Chang Bros. Photo Co., Mrs. Gibson.

Mr. James Vivian

The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon at Hungjao Cemetery of the late Mr. J. Vivian, who died at sea on Thursday whilst *en route* to Shanghai from Home leave. The late Mr. Vivian was 47 years of age, an old and respected servant for 19 years of the Shanghai Gas Co. and was returning to his post as works manager. He had been ailing for some little time, and it was thought that his trip home would benefit him, but it ■ thought that the tropical weather which he experienced on board the N.Y.K.S. Fushimi Maru aggravated his illness. Deceased was a native of Birmingham and in Shanghai a member of the Engineers' Club, and was a charter volunteer in the Engineers Co., S.V.C.

The Rev. A. C. S. Trivett read the burial service at the cemetery on Sunday. The following were pallbearers:—Messrs. H. J. Johnson, E. Kerley, W. C. Henry, J. McWatt, A. E. F. Fayrer and S. McButter. Among those who sent wreaths were:—

Wife and daughter, directors and staff of the Shanghai Gas Co., Mrs. Klyhn, Mr. and Mrs. McKinley, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. M. Baker, Mr. E. Kerbey, Ah On, Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Chinese from the Works, Chinese engineering staff of the Gas Co., Mr. and Mrs. J. Hunter, C. H. Li, Mr. W. C. Henry, W. C. Johnstone, R. H. Johnson, J. T. Ledbury, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Rogers, Mary and Susan.

Owing to the rain, a large number of names on wreath cards were undecipherable.

Mr. Michio Nodaira

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Michio Nodaira of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, who died in Calcutta on Saturday night from complications arising from malaria fever. Mr. and Mrs. Nodaira left Shanghai in October for a tour round the world. After spending some time in Hongkong, Java and Singapore, the deceased arrived in Calcutta. News was received on Thursday that he was taken very ill with malaria, and it was seen that he gradually got worse despite the best of medical attention.

Mr. Nodaira was one of the oldest Shanghai residents and very widely known amongst local communities, both foreign and Chinese. He has spent practically all his career in China having ably served the company for the last 25 years. He is survived by Mrs. Nodaira.

Mr. Nodaira was born in Nagano Prefecture, in 1879. He was graduated from the Tokyo Higher Commercial School in 1901 and entered the M.B.K. service the same year. He was transferred to the Shanghai Branch in 1902, appointed manager of the Hankow Branch in 1914, manager of the Dairen Branch in 1916 and manager in Shanghai in 1919. It is said that Mr. Nodaira was to have been promoted to directorship in the firm after his year's tour which began last August.

WAR INTERPRETERS' REUNION

Formed for Friendship and Mutual Help: An Enjoyable Function

A re-union tiffin was held on Sunday at the Yi Tz Hsiang Restaurant in Foochow Road by the Ex-Interpreters' Association of the Chinese Labour Corps with the British Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders during the Great War.

There were about 20 members present, including Messrs. T. T. Chen, assistant secretary to Dr. V. K. Ting, Director-General of the Port of Shanghai and Woosung; K. K. Wong, of H. M. Consulate-General Works Department; B. Y. Tai, of Tai & Sons Import and Export Co.; V. K. Song, of Messrs. G. E. Marden & Co.; William Ling, of the S. M. Police Department; Y. T. Zau, treasurer of Nanyang University; Y. Kwei, of the S. M. Health Department; K. C. Mo, of the China United Assurance Society; C. H. Li, of Wayside Police Station; C. P. Chow, of Messrs. Mustard & Co.; Wilts L. L. W. Sun, of Messrs. Foster McClennan & Co.; W. F. Mole, of the S. M. Public Works Department; Y. U. William Chao, S. C. Ma, of the Shanghai Commercial & Savings Bank, Ld.; A. C. Koo, B.Sc., of St. John's University; and Y. S. Hsing.

Following the tiffin, Mr. B. Y. Tai delivered a short address in the course of which he said that the Association had been formed for the purpose of strengthening the bonds of friendship between those who had served together during the Great War. It was purely for social intercourse and had no political affiliations. It was formed for mutual help and to be of some assistance to labourers who had been disabled as a result of the War. It was a pleasure to be able to meet together like this and he hoped that there would be many other similar re-unions.

Mr. T. T. Chen said that the members of the Association had had another pleasant re-union, the previous one having taken place in the form of a reception in honour of Professor and Mrs. Soothill and Lady Hosie, of the British Boxer Indemnity Commission, in the Burlington Hotel. It was always a great pleasure and a most enjoyable thing to be able to meet comrades and friends who had passed through the same hardships together during the dark days of the Great War. They were all happy to be able to say that they were all doing their "bit" still for the welfare of the community and the Chinese people after the conclusion of their services with the "Tommies" in France and Flanders. It was certainly a happy augury and Mr. Chen hoped that they may have an opportunity of doing more service for their fellow countrymen in the years to come. He hoped there would be more meetings like this as they were most pleasant after one recalled the days when war clouds covered the world.

A toast was finally proposed and drunk to the success of the Association.

On Wednesday was the Chinese festival of *Li-tang*, the Beginning of Winter.—We noticed it.

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CHINESE FASHION SHOW

Some Reflexions on an Excellent Display by a Lady Contributor

By AGNES FONG

It was a lovely sight, the Chinese fashion show, and the audience showed its great appreciation by the deafening applause which shook the whole theatre during the performance. Indeed it was a treat that could not be missed. If the clapping of hands and the stamping of feet can be relied upon as a criterion, they certainly indicated that the ladies have achieved a wonderful success. The audience was comprised of no mean judges; therefore it was not an easy task to please them, but the very fact that they were pleased meant an achievement. It is to be noticed that was the very first time, that Chinese attempted anything of the kind, and for society ladies to appear in public as mannequins, an unheard if thing in the past, is a mark that Chinese women have changed their attitude concerning the idea of appearing before the public eye being disgraceful. Their first attempt was very good, their next, will be excellent.

The show consisted of two parts, an ancient pageant and a show of the lateat styles, the former being an exhibitin of the costumes of the Han, Tang, Sung, Ming and Ching Dynasty as worn by maidens of the different periods. The costumes, in truth, were only different dresses worn by different classes of individuals, and excepting that of the Ching dynasty, might all have belonged to the same dynasty. With the little knowledge we have, it is impossible to label the dresses as belonging to the various dynasties, shown in the show. This is an error which bears calling to attention, for it is also an error of the stage.

Movies' Influence

All that most Chinese know of ancient costumes is what they see worn by the actors, but the latter does not make any distinction between the dynasties, and in any play which has its setting before the Ching Dynasty, "ancient costumes," (the general term) are used. This may be best illustrated in the costumes of no other person than the king of actors, Mei Lan-fang, who wore the same kind of dresses while acting as Hsi Shih, the beauty of the Chou Dynasty and as Yaung Kuei-fei of the Tang Dynasty, there being a lapse of over a thousand years between the two women. Since the introduction of the movie industry in China, the question of costumes has become one of importance, and it is probably owing to this difficulty that few historieal pictures are being filmed. Many people are now studying it closely, and this they do by looking into old books of literature and old paintings.

It is not to be thought that the costume of the Ching Dynasty was the popular apparel worn, on the contrary, its use was limited to the Manchus and those that attended them. The Chinese had their own type of costumes, but due to Manchu influence they were modified. The skirts which had once been long and used to trail the ground gave place to dresses below the knees and trousers. Skirts then were worn only on festivals. But as girls began to go to schools, these came to be popular, partly due to Western influence. Ten years ago came the long gowns into use, a style adopted from the Manchus, and three years ago, the long waistcoats. Tracing the change of styles thus, would have aroused much interest, and I hope that the next fashion show will show the evolution more distinctly.

Proving "Parisian" Boast

Shanghai has been compared to the Paris of China, and indeed the comparison is not an empty one, for it is here that all new fashions have their beginning. It is of interest to note that unlike Paris, which has tailors to make the fashion, the art used to be in the hands of sing-song girls of the higher class. Then these women married and became members of big households, where they still continued to think out styles. For the last ten or 20 years, however, the privilege has unconsciously dropped out of their hands into those of the movie actresses and the society ladies. And as shown in the fashion show, the latter showed much originality in various dresses.

Chinese dresses are usually divided into four seasons, and it is something new to have a further classification into sports, afternoon, and evening wear. Nevertheless, it is a very fine idea. There is one thing which must be modified. I think, and I am sure many others will agree with me, and that is the Western element being too strong in most of the modern dresses. The difference of some of them from a foreign dress, does not go beyond the collar. It is always good to introduce anything which heightens the effect, but is it not that they are overdoing it? No matter what and how much is added, the dominant note must remain Chinese.

The fashion show has done not a little to teach the people the art of dressing. Chinese, as a rule show very little individuality in clothes, they follow blindly a new style, with disregard to their own stature, figure, colour, etc., and this attempt to raise their aesthetic taste will, I hope, bring success.

Two More Performances

So great has been the enthusiasm of Shanghai over the Show that it has been decided to give additional performances on the evenings of December 28 and 29.

The following programme was given again last Friday evening:—

1. Overture
Embassy Theatre Orchestra
2. Chinese Gymnastic Exhibition
Tsing Wu Athletic Association
3. Mixed Double Quartette:
"The Lark's Song" ....Mendelssohn
Miss Violet B. Han, Miss S. L. Wong, Miss Julia Lee, Mrs. Z. T. Hsia Tyau, Mr. Z. Z. Ling, Mr. T. L. Woo, Mr. E. T. Tsu, Mr. S. F. Tsang.

3.—ANCIENT COSTUME PAGEANT

4. Ancient Chinese Music:
(a) "At the Court of Shou Yang"
Pao Hsi Soh Cheng Ching Wan
Spring Song under (Tseng)
Cheng Ching Wan
the Moon (Yuan) ..Cheng Wai Kuo
(b) (Ti Ching) .....Li Pao Chuan
(Pi-Pa) .....Liu Yeo Chang
(Bronze flute) ... Cheng Shu Seng
1. Costume of Han Dynasty
Worn by Mrs. T. K. Woog
2. Costume of Han Dynasty
Worn by Mrs. K. C. Sheng (D. H. Yu
3. Costume of Han Dynasty
Worn by Miss L. K. Day
4. Costume of Han Dynasty
Worn by Miss T. Y. Shen
5. Costume of Tang Dynasty
Worn by Mrs. R. Fan
6. Costume of Tang Dynasty
Worn by Mrs. K. S. Kum
7. Costume of Tang Dynasty
Worn by Mrs. T. K. King
8. Costume of Sung Dynasty
Worn by Miss Margaret Teng
9. Costume of Sung Dynasty
Worn by Mrs. C. Lau
10. Costume of Sung Dynasty
Worn by Mrs. Shang
11. Costume of Ming Dynasty
Worn by Miss Julia Tong
12. Costume of Tsing Dynasty
Worn by Miss Lillian Ju
13. Princess Costume
Worn by Mrs. Y. Day
14. Empress Costume
Worn by Miss Marguerite Chen
15. Court Musicians Miss Z. C. Chin
Miss Z. T. Chin

PART II

6. Intermezzo
Embassy Theatre Orchestra
7. Selections
St. John's University Jazz Orchestra
8. Comic Playlet:
"Bringing Up Baby"
The Y's Men's Club
A Comic Demonstration of the Y's Men's Baby Clinic.
Scene: Chapel Clinic.
Time: Early Spring
CAST
Doctor .....Congee" Chang
Two Charming Nurses ....Bobbie" Zee
"Ticket" Wong
An Old Fashioned Mother
"Auntie" Mason
A Modern Fashioned Mother
"D. Y." Lee
A Healthy Baby ....."J.—" Huang
9. Chinese Song accompanied by Pi-Pa ..... Miss Ing Tung
10. Male Quartette:
"Doctor St. Paul" .....Zeiter
Mr. Z. Z. Ling, Mr. T. L. Woo, Mr. E. T. Tsu, Mr. F. S. Tsang.
11. Piano Duet:
"Concerto in G Minor"
by Mendelssohn
"Presto"
Miss Gertrude Chur and Miss Grace Wong.
1. Sports Dress
Worn by Mrs. T. K. King
2. Une Costume
Worn by Mrs. V. Tong
3. Ball Dress
Worn by Mrs. R. Fan
4. Summer Dress
Worn by Miss Julia Tong
5. Evening Dress
Worn by Mrs. T. K. Wong
6. Autumn Dress
Worn by Miss Lillian Ju
7. Afternoon Dress
Worn by Mrs. N. Chung
8. Evening Dress
Worn by Miss M. Tong
9. Evening Dress
Worn by Miss M. Chu
10. Winter Dress
Worn by Mrs. G. Lau
11. Evening Dress
Worn by Mrs. K. S. Kum
12. Flower Girl
Worn by Miss Barbara C. Lee
13. Flower Girl
Worn by Miss Florence V. Lee
14. Bride
Worn by Mrs. K. C. Chang

Officers of the Club in charge of the production are:—

President: Wm. Yinson Lee, 1st Vice-President: Anson T. Wong, 2nd Vice-President: Russell B. S. Chen, Secretaries: D. Y. Lee and T. Y. Chang, Treasurer: Y. Lewis Mason.

Baby Welfare Clinic Committee:—Anson T. Wong (Chairman), E. C. Yao, M.D. (Pennsylvania), W. Ieris Hsu, M.D. M.M.S., (Pennsylvania), H. N. Zee, M.D., (Pennsylvania), Y. H. Chen, M.D. (Heidelberg, Germany), Y. P. Wang, Sumin Lee.

THE CHINESE FASHION SHOW
Some Charming Creations Shown by Local Chinese Ladies

THE WEEK-END'S CRIME

Two Murders and Three Armed Robberies on Saturday

Han Ping-fan, Chinese police constable 1217, was shot dead in a hot water shop at 878 Yuhang Road about 8 p.m. on Saturday by one of two armed men who attacked him, without any apparent reason. The men escaped. The constable was on duty at the time and had just stopped to get a drink at the shop when the men approached him. One of them pulled a pistol when only a few steps away and fired point blank at the officer, who dropped dead. At the same time the other man wrenched away the policeman's loaded pistol and the two made off along Kungping Road. The deceased constable was 30 years old and has been on the police force for two and a half years. His body was taken to the Mortuary where an inquest will be held to-day.

Another murder was committed on Saturday at about 2 p.m. in the Hongkew district. A boatman and a loafer had an altercation outside a shop at 34 Durpoe Road and the latter drew a knife and stabbed the boatman. He ran, but was followed by a police informer and arrested. The boatman was taken to hospital, but was dead before arriving there.

Three armed robberies were reported on Saturday. At 7 p.m. six armed men entered a dwelling at 145 Jehol Road, intimidated the occupants and escaped with $350 worth of money, clothing and jewellery. At 2.30 a.m. three highwaymen held up a Chinese as he was passing through an alleyway off Elgin Road and relieved him of jewellery and money to the value of $350. Four armed men held up the assistants in a rice shop at 486 Avenue Edward VII at 6.20 p.m. and looted the accountant's desk of $450 in notes and silver. In their hasty retreat one of the robbers left a revolver behind.

A FIRE broke out in a small factory at 302 Haila: Road in the Harbin Road district on Saturday afternoon at 3.45 o'clock and before it could be brought under control had destroyed three small buildings.

JUDGE PAYNE ON PROHIBITION

Interesting Speech at American Chamber of Commerce Tiffin

The American Chamber of Commerce were hosts last Friday at tiffin to Judge John Burton Payne, chairman of the American Red Cross and director of the International League of Red Cross Societies. The affair was held at the American Club. Mr. E. F. Fairman, president of the American Chamber was in the chair and introduced the guest of honour and principal speaker at the meeting.

Judge Payne said that he would like first to make a few words of explanation regarding Mr. Silas Strawn, American delegate to the Customs Conference. It was usually thought that they were lay partners, but he had resigned from the firm in 1918 to go into the Red Cross work and to give his full time to this, paying his own expenses and getting no salary—giving his full time when not playing golf.

The speaker then referred to his trip from Japan, where he attended the Oriental Red Cross Conference. He had passed through Korea, on down to Peking, thence to Nanking and on to Shanghai. During the whole trip he and his party had experienced no inconvenience. "I want you all to know that China has not been lacking one bit in genuine hospitality. Most of our trip was made in a private car, which was well guarded," he continued.

Prohibition to Stay

Judge Payne then spoke at some length on prohibition in America and generally on U.S. politics. He termed the prohibition act as "the greatest experiment that any government had ever attempted. I want to say that the Prohibition Act is in the Constitution to stay, and we might just as well forget about trying to take it out or of trying to modify it. Though the centres of population are quite wet, the wide open spaces of the United States are dry. There must be a conflict between the wet and dry factions during the next decade, but prohibition has come to stay. I am not a very warm prohibitionist myself, but I could wager that if prohibition came to a vote to-day it would remain."

The speaker then went on to explain the reason why prohibition would not be overthrown. He said that a three-fourths majority of the states would be necessary to change the amendment. The South was a dry section, as well as most of the Middle West and New England. The great wet belt was around New York and parts of Illinois and Missouri. The latter state had recently voted dry. With this in mind, one could see that a great majority of the states would vote the dry ticket.

Governor Smith's Chances

From this, Judge Payne entered into national politics. He was of the opinion that because the Ku Klux Klan and the Catholic Party got so mixed up in the 1924 election the chances of Governor Smith of New York to get the Presidential nomination in 1928 were gone. Had this not happened the Democrats would have nominated him by acclamation.

One of the strengths of the Republican party, he said, lay in the fact that they had not made prohibition a political issue, though it was generally understood that they favoured the drys.

The speaker also touched on the Red Cross Conference in Japan. He mentioned that the new Fraternity Memorial Hospital, costing G$3,000,000, which had come out of the funds raised by the American Red Cross following the earthquake, was nearing completion and was a lasting memorial of the help given any country in the time of disaster by the Red Cross.

ABOUT 445 workers of the Heng Fong cotton mill (Chinese) at 1 Whashing Road struck work on Tuesday evening and yesterday morning to protest the dismissal of one of their number. Handbills urging the labourers to "rise and demand the reinstatement of their colleague," were distributed yesterday in the vicinity of the mill.

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WEDNESDAY'S PRIZE GIVINGS

End of Term Celebrations in Several Local Schools: Progress of Institutions and Reports of Work Done: Sound Advice by Judge Grain

The Cathedral School for Girls held its breaking up entertainment on Wednesday morning in the school hall and many parents and friends were present, among whom were Lady Barton, and Judge Peter Grain, the Very Rev. Dean Symons and Dr. Marsh, of the School Board.

The marks for the term were read, and those for the final examinations, followed by an award of badges to those girls who had never been late or absent and had had no Order Marks for a year. These were Evelyn Lucas, Kathleen Lucas, Lorna Lucas, Rita Stewart, Alice Watt and Margaret Gibbs. The Dean Walker prize, a yearly award, was also given, this going to Evelyn Lucas and the Campbell Mathematics Prize, also yearly, was awarded to Hazel Fowler.

A list was also read of all those who, during the summer, took the swimming tests held by the Royal Life Saving Society and certificates were given to the following:—Hazel Fowler, Evelyn Lucas, Nancy Marsh, Rosemary Marsh, Eileen Hammond, Joy Pett, and Eileen Parkhill.

Judge Grain's Speech

Addressing the students Judge Peter Grain said:—

I have been asked to say a few words to you by Miss Fleet. I am not going to make a speech but merely say one or two things. I want you to know, first of all, on behalf of the other guests and myself, I wish to thank you for the charming entertainment you have given us, which we all so much enjoyed. The next thing I want to say is how pleased I was to see the success which this school achieved in the literary competition of the "North-China Daily News" New Christmas Competition.

I had the pleasure of awarding the prizes and, as you know, I did not know to whom I was awarding them. I did not know till I saw them in the Christmas number of the "North-China Daily News" and it gives me the greatest pleasure to see the success of the Cathedral Girls School who obtained six prizes in the competition. It may seem a small matter to speak about but it is not so small as it seems, ■ it shows what a good system of education you are attaining and speaks highly for the teaching staff of this school.

It is not only each lesson you learn that is educating your mind but your daily training in thought. Your work was exceedingly good. I fear I forget the names of the competitors but I remember some charming and very graceful verses "Autumn Leaves" and two stories showing considerable originality in style, "The Clock of Griegburg," His Only Friend."

Brave Attempt at Latin

Now, there is just one other thing I should like to say, I should like to give you a motto, "Work hard, play hard." My Latin is not so good as it was and I rather hesitate to put it into Latin for you as a motto, but I will be brave and make an attempt to say "*Fortiter in Labore et fortiter in ludo*" (Resolute in Work and Resolute in Play). I want you to work hard because your parents are paying for your education and some of them may be stinting themselves and making sacrifices to do so. So the least you can do is to make them some returns.

Secondly, education is so necessary now-a-days if you want to get on in this world.

Play hard because it makes you healthy. It gives you your bright eyes and gives you your good complexion. It gives you your poise and carriage. It teaches you this in games—unselfishness and combination. I have been in many countries. I know the beautiful women of Sorrento and Amalfi in Italy. I know the beautiful Arabs, the Egyptians and the Bedouins of Egypt, the Turkish women of Constantinople, and the Greeks of Athens, but, when I came back to Great Britain, I always say that our British girls are the most beautiful in the world. It is because you play games and keep a clean and healthy mind in a clean and healthy body and, therefore, in conclusion, I say "Work Hard and Play Hard."

The Programme

A excellent musical programme, which also included recitations and a scene from Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" which was very well acted, and went with great smoothness, was then given by the pupils, and was greatly enjoyed.

Kindergarten and Form Io
Song Carol
Recitation. Molly Sailor.
Songs, Nursery Rhymes
(a) Jack and Jill by Jack Dewar and Betty Johns
(b) Little Miss Muffet by Wendy Donelly and Jinnie Macks
(c) Little Jack Horner by Tom ■ son.
Recitation
(a) Tom Bassett
(b) Margaret Squires
(c) Dorothy Toone
Singing by Id. I. "Jack Frost" and 2. "The Beehive."
Recitation.—Derek Skinner
French Recitation
(a) Gwynnydd Richards and Lynette Phillips
English Recitation
Brian Easer
Singing by Form ■.
(a) "Come, Little Leaves"
(b) Carol
Recitation
(a) Joan Holland
(b) Robert Turnbull
Recitation French John Marden, Audrey Hammond and Margot Everal
Junior Singing Class
Songs (a) Canterbury Bells
Recitation (a) Jacko Fitz Gerald
(b) Joan Donelly
French Verb Hawley
Joan Morrison, Mary Seatchard, Elaine Grant and Nancy Wilkinson
Songs by Junior Singing Class
Recitation (a) Betty Roberts
(b) Tubs Ford
Recitation French
(a) Betty Aitkenhead, Lorna Lucas, Kathleen Lucas
(b) Sheila Elmore
Senior Singing. Part Songs by whole Class.
French Recitation. Nancy Marsh and Dorothy Roberts.
English, Form III. A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act. I, Scene II.
Senior Singing.
(a) The Gale
(b) Carol
after which a carol was sung by the whole school.

After Judge Grain, Lady Barton thanked Miss Fleet on behalf of the guests, saying how much she had enjoyed the splendid entertainment and wishing all the staff and pupils a happy Christmas.

The Dean also thanked Miss Fleet and said he realized that an entertainment such as had just been given by the classes could not have been done at a moment's notice and he congratulated the staff on their hard work and its success, and he wished them also a very happy Christmas.

School will re-open on Friday, January 6.

CATHEDRAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Wednesday was prize-giving day at the Cathedral School for Boys when all of the boys were present and a good attendance of parents and friends of the school.

The Rev. W. Robbins, M.A., headmaster of the school, read his report showing the progress of the school and the achievements of the pupils. In the course of this, Mr. Robbins said that this was the 20th anniversary of the school. After making reference to the will of the late Mr. Henry Lester and the large benefaction which he had made to the school, Mr. Robbins expressed the hope that they soon would have a modern and well equipped school building, at the same time maintaining the old spirit and traditions. They had done well both in sports and scouting; four boys had entered for the Cambridge examinations and the work was being carried along steadily. They welcomed Mr. C. F. Goodman, who together with Mr. Candlin, had rendered every assistance in the conduct of the school. Miss Ness's painstaking and untiring work was commented upon very favourably. Others were also mentioned in a suitable way.

Some Words of Advice

In addressing those present, Judge Peter Grain said:—

I know that the cry nowadays is "Youth must be served" but I want you to understand that there is also some service due to your elders.

I want you to understand that we are and have been of service to you Many of us have had long service in life and have built up great experiences and knowledge and are in a position to advise, to warn you and guide you through the serious paths of life. If youth but only knew, we are really quite nice and kindly people, wanting to help you and able to help you and guide you. I do not want you to lose your independence—far from it, keep it and cherish it. But I do want you often to look into the mirror of life and say, "What a fine fellow I am, how will I can do everything. I am the master of my fate I am the captain of my soul." But do sometimes come to your elders, sometimes ask for advice, sometimes listen to our warnings, sometimes be guided by us. And by doing so, you need not lose your independence which is so prized by all the people of Great Britain, indeed you will enhance and strengthen it. So I say ■ you courage in your fight in the world. Keep your independence but do sometimes come to your elders asking for our advice and our help and do sometimes be guided by us.

A Well Acted Farce

The students sang songs throughout the evening and gave an excellent play entitled, "A Night ■ Adventure at Dr. Whackum's". This was heartily appreciated and showed the dramatic possibilities of the student. C. L. Holmes excelled himself in an interpretation of Bill Sykes, the Burglar, and did exceedingly well with his fine Cockney dialect. T. Young played particularly well as one of the schoolboys but the others were also deserving of much praise. The arrival on the scene of two policemen at the end was most amusing and provided a very good climax. In order to do justice to those who took part, we could do no better than to print the cast, which follows:—

Eliza, Cook to Dr. Whackum ..J. Fufe
Thomas, Page Boy .....W Martin
Brown, Smith and Jones: Boarders of Dr. Whackum's
L. Hunt, J. Chadderton and T. Young
Dickson, Patrol Leader Westchester Troop of Scouts .....A. Hammond
Ferris, his Second .....Z. Morphew
Bill Sykes, Burglar .....C Holmes
Jim Grimes, Burglar .....J. Shotter
Sergeant Matthews of Westchester Police .....N. Palmer
Constable Evans .....R. Richards

Mr. A. H. Candlin, M.A., the assistant master, was responsible for the scenery, a headmaster's study, and the excellent settings. They were very pretty indeed.

The Prizes

Following the play, Mrs. C. J. F. Symons distributed the prizes, the following being a list of the lucky ones:—

Form VI.—Form, A. ■ Hammond; Mathematics, A. G. Hammond: French, C. L. Holmes.
Form V.—Form, J. Chadderton; Mathematics, J. Chadderton; French, E. P. Morphew.
Form IV.—Form, J. Fyfe; Mathematics, J. Fyfe; French, A. Richards.
Form III.—Form, T. Young; Mathematics, N. Hammond, French, A. Gee.
Form II.—Form, I. Ancott; Mathematics, R. Barber; French, I. Ancott.
Form I.—Form, W. Train; Mathematics, W. Train; French, K. Campbell.
Walker Prize.—A. G. Hammond and C. L. Holmes.
Campbell Prize.—A. G. Hammond
Page Prize.—T. Young.

JUNIOR BOYS' SCHOOL

The prize giving of the Junior Boys' School, Yu Yuen Road, was held on Wednesday afternoon. After the prize giving a pleasant entertainment was staged by the pupils.

Mr. Billings, Headmaster of the Public School for Boys, before giving away the prizes made a short speech in which he referred to the gratitude the boys owed the girls school for allowing them space in their building for the past ■ yrs. By next year however, they hoped to be in temporary quarters of their own.

Certificates from the Royal Drawing Society were awarded to the following boys: (Preparatory, Honours), Brown, Colter, Gray, Libby Lonberg, Du Pac de Marsoulies, Parasoff, A. D. Sayle, Schlobohm, Teez, Wright and Zehntner. (Division I. Honours), Ellis, Maughan, J. Sayle, A. Somekh, Welch, Wheen and Young. (Passes), Aiers, Berents, Bruce Stewart and Mayne.

Prizes for the year 1925 were awarded as follows: II Lower. Form Prizes: Kemp. I Upper. Form Prize: Kew. Arithmetic: Ellis. Preparatory. Form Prize: Peach. Arithmetic: Master. Natural History; (competed for by whole Junior School): J. Sayle. General Excellence: Westcott.

Prizes for the year just ended: II Upper. Form Prize: Kemp. Arithmetic: S. Maughan. II Lower. Form Prize: Pawsey. Arithmetic: Brown. I. Upper. Form Prizes: Schlobohm. Arithmetic: Fumagalli. I Lower. Form Prize: Foster. Arithmetic: Johnson. Preparatory. Form Prize: Holdsworth. Arithmetic: D. Brand and D. Sayle. Natural History (competed by whole Junior School): Berents. English: A. Read. General Excellence: Renner, A. Sayle and Feigin.

THOMAS HANBURY SCHOOL

The prize giving at the Thomas Hanbury School for Boys was held on Wednesday, and went off very successfully. Following is a list of prize winners:

Form I.—General Subjects, E. Crichton; Assiduity, E. Rusnak; Special, G. Kalandadze.
Form II.—General Subjects, R. Hannibal; Assiduity, G. Ouskuli; Special S. Dan.
Form IV.—General Subjects, M. Goldstein; Assiduity, C. Mackenzie; Chemistry, A. Felis.
English B.—General Subjects, T Kouizumi; Assiduity, P. da Costa
English A.—General Subjects, C. Seiki; Assiduity, C. D. Pi
Remove.—General Subjects, C. Dean; Assiduity, V. Dronnikoff; Assiduity, T Duncan.
Form V.—General Subjects, T. Henley; Assiduity, S. Bereowitch; Mathematics, A. F. Tyu.
Form VI B.—General Subjects, B. Korenoff; Assiduity, D. Oppenheim; Assiduity, C. Haines.
Form VI A.—General Subjects, E Walley; Assiduity, T. Steele; Mathematics, E. Walley; English A. E. Hardoon; Shorthand, J. Jenkin.
Leaving certificates.—A. Park, B Korenoff, W. Grunberg (1), D. R. Ling, F. Kapustin, J. Chew, E. Walley, H. F. Yew, S. Murata, J. Jenkin, A. E Hardoon.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

A very pretty and well arranged entertainment was given on Wednesday evening at the Public School for Girls in Yu Yuen Road by Forms I. to V. First came a carol by girls of Forms I and II sung with much gravity and effect; then a Series of recitations, by M. Tenney, M. Gates and P. Poskitt. All these were well and clearly delivered and much applauded. A chorus from Form IV followed. "Comin' through the Rye," with one chorister nearly overcome by the humour of the situation, but all very tuneful and pretty. After this a series of really exquisite dances by Miss Tyrell's pupils. They were all charming, but the grace and instinct of the principal girl in the doll dance and particularly the jester in "Nowell" are something to be remembered. Next came an amusing Scottish dialogue by M. Ferguson and J. Neil, who looked and acted their parts well. The duet by T. Kano and C. Green was a very pretty idea; and J. Wheeler, following next, recited well. P. Master sang well to her own accompaniment on the ukelele with chorus in the gallery. The programme closed with a bright little playlet "Dick Whittington," in which special compliments may be offered to R. Green as Dick and B. Cook as the cook. To mention all these charming little damsels, who entertained us so nicely, by initials only presents a somewhat bald appearance. But the programme is to blame for that. One thanks them none the less for a charming afternoon and congratulates them on its uniform success.

SUNDAY, being the birthday of Buddha, local members of that religious sect celebrated the day with due ceremonies.

THE confusion among those, who attempted to take refuge by boat in the settlements from the war region on Thursday afternoon after the Shanghai-Hangchow railway line had been interrupted, was made more desperate by an armed robbery, which occurred when about 10 men, armed with hatchets, boarded one of the junks, occupied by a wealthy silk merchant of Kashing, in the vicinity of Shanghai. They removed the loot to their boat, lying alongside the junk, after which they walked off with a pleasing smile of thanks. According to the report made to the Water police office, the loss was estimated at $1,500.

GERMAN CHRISTMAS PLAY

"Cinderella" Enacted by German School Children: Well Done

"Aschenbroedel"
(Cinderella)
The Old King .....Ernst Mirow
The Young Prince .....Ingard Foss
The Small Lord Chamberlain .....Horst Schmidt-Imbrek
The Court Jester .....Harry Gleths
The Big Lord Chamberlain .....Alex Erdmann
The Wicked Stepmother .....Paula Rothberg
Stepsister Adelgunde..Alice Neugebauer
Stepsister Kunigunde..Chiara Denkhaus
The Aged Father.....Karl Reh
Cinderella .....Herta Ruhf
The Good Fairy .....Celia Walter
Puck, her Servant .....Lisa Bruhn
Voice of the Dead Mother
Father Christmas
The Christ Child.....Pa ar Erdmann
The Ice Fairy .....Hilda Walter
Harlequin .....Dorothea Herzberg
Nobles, Court Ladies, Palace Guards, Jesters, Blackamoors, Snowmen, Mary and Joseph.

Tableau
1. The Voice of the Mother
2. The Court Ball.
3. The Lost Slipper.
4. Cinderella's Doves.
5. The Betrothal.
6. Christmas Magic.

Ballets.
1. Kitchen-Dance.
2. Jesters' Parade.
3. Blackamoors' Polonaise.
4. Dance of Snowflakes

Adapted and Produced by A. Erdmann-Jesnitzer. Ballet Master J. Cherpino. Musical Director, Adolph Bauer.

Call her by what name you will, Cinderella has a perennial lure. Supreme satisfaction supervenes when the stepsisters, who have consistently "high-batted" the pure and lovely heroine, finally get what's coming to them; and it makes no difference what language they get it in. The pupils of the Kaiser Wilhelm School, with the co-operation of the German A. D. C., most creditably presented Cinderella's woes and her reward. They had the assistance of their elders in one or two of the parts, but it was essentially a performance by children, for children: and in this class are included grown-up children as well as those in arms.

The dances were especially pretty and well executed. Indeed, what is usually a Pantomine relieved here and there by lines such as may be trusted to children, was on Wednesday afternoon elaborated into quite a Revue, involving not only the simple story of Cinderella, but intricate comedy as well. The picture was somewhat further complicated by the introduction of the purely religious phase of Christmas, all very prettily depicted.

All of the children acquitted themselves well, those to whom the more onerous parts fell, particularly so. Their elders, who assumed the burden of low comedy, were quite amusing. Equally impressive were they to whom was allotted pathos. One would have wished to see a somewhat less sophisticated Prince Charming, but this did not detract from the dramatic intensity wherewith "he" voiced his longing for the fair one of his dreams, and it would be ■ stony-hearted Cinderella, indeed, that would fail to respond to his ardent wooing. Cinderella, herself was altogether loveable.

There were rough spots, here and there, in the performance which will doubtless have worn off by the time it is repeated on the 27th. It certainly was deserving of a larger audience than that which gathered to see it at the Lyceum on Wednesday afternoon. This, however, made up for lack of numbers by sincere appreciation of the childrens' efforts which reflected great credit not only on them but on everyone connected with the production.

Sitting near the critic was a very friendly four year-old British miss who was at first much puzzled as to what was going on, and who finally ventured on to the critic's knee, demanding full explanations. When these had been given, she voiced her sentiments in the simple phrase, "I like it," which, we do not hesitate to think, was precisely the attitude of everyone in the audience.

R. R. L. F.

THE fifth annual convention of the National Associated Chambers of Commerce of China will be held in Peking in April next, notice to this effect having been received by the local Chamber. The convention originally was to have been held in Shantung but owing to unsettled conditions a change of venue was decided upon.

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RICSHA MISSION'S GOOD WORK

The Year's Achievements: High Praise from the S.M.C. Commissioner-General

Appropriately at this time, when the annual appeal for the Christmas Fund for Ricsha Men is being made, Mr. George Matheson is circulating the report on the work of the Shanghai Mission to Ricsha Men during the past year. It will be found as interesting as ever. Extracts from the report follow:—

The Mission was founded in June, 1923, by Mr. George Matheson, as the outcome of profound sympathy evoked by close observation of the hardships of the ricsha man's life. The object of the Mission is to uplift and help the coolies generally, and to ameliorate, as far as possible, the condition of the sick and destitute among them. With the view to obtaining, at least in a measure, the desired results, the work is organized on the lines of relief work, combined with evangelistic effort and elementary education. The destitute are fed and clothed, the homeless are given shelter, the sick and injured receive medical treatment. Pauperizing is carefully avoided. All departments are under the direct personal supervision of the founder and honorary director. The Mission relies for support upon voluntary contributions. Accounts are audited yearly by chartered accountants.

In consequence of the industrial disturbances and social unrest, instructive work, the value of which has been more than justified by results in past years, has again been specially emphasized in order to counteract the effects of the pernicious propaganda constantly in operation among the general labouring classes. Care is employed in instructing men in the principles of good conduct and obedience to lawful authority, verbally, and by means of suitable literature, both in the Mission premises and other places where the men congregate. It is endeavoured to make all such instruction as comprehensive and practical as possible so as to meet the vital points in the daily lives of the men of the classes dealt with, and it is encouraging to find that the assimilation of the instruction has undoubtedly been an important factor in the maintenance of peace and order and abstention from strikes by the men so influenced, not only the ricsha fraternity but multitudes of this class coming under the direct influence of the Mission. Traffic and other Municipal regulations also receive special attention at meetings and are carefully explained.

Developments During the Year

The honorary director, being several times approached by deputations from Pootung urging that a branch of the Mission be established there in a district populated by ricsha men, labourers, small farmers, etc., instituted inquiries which resulted in confirmation of the urgent need for such. Mr. Matheson accordingly visited the place on March 6, 1926, and received a demonstration of welcome from hundreds of men, women and children who had come in procession carrying banners, etc., from the surrounding villages. At the largely attended meeting which followed, petitions for the establishment of a branch of the Ricsha Mission were again presented, and finally ■ was decided to make a beginning by opening a meeting hall and a school. Both were opened a few weeks later and are now popular institutions doing ·d work.

ie much needed new hall in Sing · Road, Chapei, accommodating which had been in course of ion since March 1926, was oc- id on August 25, with an over- meeting, which condition has ntinued night after night ever since. The increased accommodation, clean building and good ventilation are greatly appreciated. The remarkably well built and suitable premises were designed, and during building superintended by Mr. A. C. Wheeler, architect, Public Works Department, Shanghai Municipal Council, to whom the very warmest thanks for his arduous and gratuitous services are tendered.

Owing to the Shanghai Municipal Council's voluntary contribution of Tls. 5,000 to the building fund in 1923, in recognition of the public services rendered by the Mission in the instruction, etc., of the ricsha men, the building was completed free of debt. The building is situated in a district largely populated by International Settlement ricsha men, as cost of living is lower in Chapei.

A former leading business man, always a generous contributor to the Mission, prior to his recent retirement suggested to the honorary director that the Nantao districts would offer a prolific field for the efforts of the Mission. This suggestion, meeting a long felt desire for a solid formation of the work in this district where the Mission has been doing open air work for several years, may some day result in the establishment of a branch of the Mission in Nantao.

We are advised that a bequest has been made by the late Mr. Henry Lester to the Shanghai Mission to Ricsha Men. Further details of this, ■ to hand, will be published in our next report.

During the year an average of 290 meals per day were supplied to men in need, also garments and other assistance. Diaries recording daily activities give the following statistics for the year:—

Total number of meetings	8,500
Approximate number of persons reached	412,000
Meals	105,850
Special Christmas food parcels	15,000
Garments	2,050
Sandals and straw hats	4,480
Number sheltered in halls	20,500
Total literature	35,000

Work among women ■ carried on through native Bible women who are constantly at work teaching and visiting the homes; meetings are held in the halls and well attended. Considerable numbers of women are faithful members of the Ricsha Mission church and exercise a markedly good influence in the church and homes. Elementary schools for boys and girls, under the tuition of well trained native teachers, provide good elementary education, on completion of which many pupils have been enabled to secure good positions and take their place in life under promising conditions.

It is pleasant to record that through this year, as also in the past years of trouble and disturbances, the Mission and its activities pursued the usual even tenor of its way, undisturbed by the warring political elements of the outside world. The communities generally have always shown friendliness and goodwill towards the Mission.

THREE armed men entered a dry cleaning establishment at 83 Kiukiang Road on Sunday evening about 7 o'clock on the pretext of doing business with the inmates and once inside drew their guns and intimidated the four assistants. While one of them guarded the entrance and one covered the occupants with a gun the third ransacked the accountant's desk, securing $100 in cash.

WEDDING GROUP OF MR. J. E. RADELEY OF MESSRS. HARDOON'S, SHANGHAI, AND MISS EVELYN HOLMES, OF BEVERLEY, YORKSHIRE WHO WERE MARRIED AT HONGKONG ON NOVEMBER 26 LAST

RETIREMENT OF MR. H. CROMBIE

Well Known Insurance Manager Leaves After 35 Years

By the departure of Mr. Henry Crombie, the Far Eastern Manager of the Phoenix Assurance Co., Ltd., of London, who sailed for home by the P. & O. S. Khiva on Thursday afternoon, the insurance world ■ Shanghai loses one of its most prominent figures. Mr. Crombie is

MR. H. CROMBIE

retiring to England on a well-earned pension after nearly 35 years ■ the foreign field.

Mr. Crombie commenced his business career with the South British Insurance Co., for which concern he went to Calcutta in 1892. His stay in India was a very brief one, and he was transferred to Hongkong as local manager in 1893.

In 1898 Mr. Crombie joined the Sun Insurance Office, and came to Shanghai as Far Eastern manager for that company. In 1903 he transferred his services to the Phoenix Assurance Co., and for the past 20 years has managed the Far Eastern Branch in Shanghai. In the interim the "Phoenix" has absorbed the Union Marine Insurance Co. of Liverpool and the London Guarantee and Accident Co., and the affairs of those companies in this field have also been under the direct control of Mr. Crombie.

Supporter of Tariffs

Mr. Crombie has always been a staunch supporter of the insurance tariffs, and he can claim to be the father of such tariffs ■ the Far East, as he was instrumental in drawing up and introducing the first fire tariff in Hongkong in 1894. Over a long period Mr. Crombie has taken a very active interest in the Fire Insurance Associations at Hongkong and Shanghai, serving continuously for over 30 years on committees, where his wide and varied experience of insurance conditions throughout the Far East has been of the greatest value and assistance to all concerned.

During his long term of office Mr. Crombie has seen tremendous developments in insurance business in this field. ■ is a well known fact that the Chinese merchants of to-day avail themselves of the protection of fire and marine insurance to an extent which was undreamt of 30 years ago.

Owing mainly to the demands of business and his frequent absence on tours of inspection of the Far East, Mr. Crombie has not found time to identify himself to any great extent with the public life of the Settlement. In the field of sport he has always been a keen golfer, and is one of the oldest members of the Shanghai Golf Club. He is a racing enthusiast and was generally to be found at the meetings on the Shanghai course. He has owned race ponies from time to time, but his colours have unfortunately never been carried by a winner.

Yesterday Mr. Crombie was entertained to tiffin at the Shanghai Club by a representative gathering of his insurance colleagues, when he was presented with a silver cigar box as a memento of his long service in the Far Eastern field. He was also the recipient of a silver salver from the staff of the Phoenix Assurance Co.

Mrs. Crombie and her two daughters are well known in the social life of the port and they will be missed by a large number of friends.

THE VOLUNTEERS

Shanghai, Dec. 22.

No. 160—Long Service Medal —Members of the Corps are reminded ■ that applications for the Long Service Medal should be forwarded so as to reach Corps Headquarters not later than Noon on the 31st instant.

ANOTHER Chinese died from cold in the Pootung District during the week-end. He was of the beggar class.

Two piracies have occurred on the Huangpu in the district of Lunghua during the past three days, according ■ the Chinese press. A wheat boat was boarded while lying at anchor and a landah stabbed to death when he resisted the pirates. The latter made off with the cargo. On the night of December 15, a silk merchant from Kashing was coming toward Shanghai with his family in a junk when the boat was held up by nine pirates. The men boarded the junk after firing several intimidating shots, and the victims were relieved of $1,600 worth of personal and household articles.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND FOR RICSHAMEN

Nearing $10,000: Generous Aid of Police, Brokers and Hongs: Schoolgirls' Effort

It now seems almost certain that the Christmas Fund for Ricsha Men this year will reach $10,000, for this week's contributions increased it to just short of $9,000 and the usual experience has been that the two or three days before Christmas Day are the best, whilst many subscription lists which it was said were circulating are still to arrive.

At present subscriptions sent in amount to $8,743.40 and Tls. 10. The Fund, which ■ conducted by the "North-China Daily News & Herald," has easily passed all previous records and now many hundreds of coolies are assured not only of much-needed relief in the present bitter weather, but of meals throughout the year when they cannot afford ■ buy them. Up to the present, last year's record has been exceeded by nearly $1,000.

Shanghai's cynical critic, the "Town Traveller," in the latest issue of his interesting production makes a striking appeal on behalf of the Christmas Fund for Ricshamen. Under the heading, "The Least of These," he writes:—

"One may look far and find not half so worthy an object of charity as the ricsha coolie, and though we condescend only once a year to remind ourselves of the noble work that Mr. George Matheson has been carrying on now for a number of years, it behoves each and every to atone for remissness in this respect by allocating a generous share of the Christmas spirit to the furtherance ■ this work. Here is practical Christianity in the highest form of expression."

The "Traveller" concludes:—

"Be generous, ■ Reader. Let this human horse of yours come to know, albeit indirectly, that your true sentiments towards him are very different from those conveyed by your irritation and even anger at his failure to read your mind as to the direction in which you wish him to go."

The children of the Thomas Hanbury School for Girls must have been canvassing very industriously, for they "weighed in" in the dual sense with a load of 940 coppers, a large number of 20-cent pieces and some big money, making altogether the satisfactory sum of $44.90, which ■ very much ■ their credit.

RUSSIAN CHILDREN'S PARTY

Delightful Christmas Entertainment by A. W. C.

About 200 poor Russian children made the delightful discovery on Tuesday afternoon that Christmas had really come to Shanghai. The occasion was a Christmas party given by the Civic and Dramatic Departments of the American Women's Club and consisted of plenty of good things to eat and a programme. Hot chocolate, sandwiches, cake and ice-cream were no small portion of the entertainment which filled the clubrooms with decorous and slightly awed children of all ages from the Thomas Hanbury School for Girls, Mme. Dietrich's Orphanage, and the School for Russian Refugees in Rue Chapsal. The programme consisted of numbers by Mrs. K. E. Graham who sang nursery rhymes and Mother Goose tales to the delight of the children, and a number of tricks performed by three trained dogs and a cinema show. A large Christmas tree, trimmed and lighted, stood in one corner of the clubrooms.

The following ladies were responsible for arrangements: Picture show, Mrs. J. A. Murray, Trained dogs, Mrs. Giles; Tree and Presents, Mr. H. F. Waterman, Mrs. Verne Dyson, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Kingsbury and Mrs. Whittaker; Refreshments, Mrs. Giovaninni and Mrs. Macbeth. Contributing to the party's success was also Mr. Norman Westwood, of the Universal Film Corp., from whom the film was secured for the occasion, the Western Dairy Products Company which gave ice cream, the Sunday School of Community Church which donated the Christmas tree, and the Chinese American Publishing Company which gave about 100 picture books. Thanks are also given by the club to the many friends who contributed presents or money gifts for the party.

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DAY OF CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Entertainment, Gifts and Goodies Given to Many Poor Little Children

Few of the small or needy folk in Shanghai who have come to the notice of the benevolent minded have missed a portion at least of Christmas cheer if the parties given for them can be taken as a gauge. Wednesday's list included a festive afternoon given for children of Customs' Club members, another for children of the American Association of University Women, another for poor Chinese children at the Union Club and still another for poor foreign children at the Foreign Y.W.C.A.

At the Customs' Club about 250 children put in an appearance, following a custom which has been in vogue for the past 40 years. There they were greeted at the head of the stairs by a clown, Mr. G. W. Maclaren, who immediately put them into a good humour, and a "Charlie Chaplin," Mr. W. G. Brown, who had a devastating effect upon the younger admirers whose admiration showed plainly that it was mixed with awe. Inside the main hall space had been cleared for the illuminated Christmas tree, with its heap of gifts at the base, and a Father Christmas officiating. Tea was served first by ladies of the Club, at long tables which sparkled with every variety of dainty. After tea which started about 3.30 the children witnessed a programme consisting of a Pathé cinema, Chinese jugglers, and clown "stunts" and bran pies provided an element of hilarity along with games of every description. Among the members responsible for the arrangements in connexion with the entertainment were Mr. and Mrs. Adnams, Mrs. G. B. Stormes, Mrs W. Nash, Mrs. MacPherson, and Miss C. D. Gosling.

Poor Children at Y.W.C.A.

The 100 poor children at the Y.W.C.A. where a generous party had been arranged by the business women belonging to the organization, had much the same kind of an afternoon. Each child here was given a nice tea followed by a programme of conjurer's acts by Mr. T. C. Lee, and then a Christmas tree display with gifts for each child. These consisted of a bag of sweets and nuts, a toy, and another parcel containing a woollen undergarment or needed article of wearing apparel for each child.

Mrs. I. Green had arranged the programme, Miss L. Cummings was in charge of toys and food, Mrs. G. L. Shocks in charge of the clothing and Mrs. Ethel Lacy and Miss Lamashevsky in charge of the money gifts.

Especial thanks are given to the following for their assistance in making this party a success. Marcel and Co., for candy; Mrs. Drake for fruit and tinned goods; Miss E. H. Banner for 100 balloons; American Association of University Women sity Women for toys and garments; Community Church for garments and toys, Mme. Legendre for toys, and Messrs. Andersen, Meyer & Co., for lighting arrangements.

Children Bring Gifts

At the A.W.C. clubrooms, members of the American Association of University Women had arranged a Christmas party for their small folk. Here each child brought a gift for the tree which was bedecked and which will be donated to a institution for children which would not otherwise be able to have such a symbol of the season. The children themselves provided most of the entertainment, there being small dancers, reciters and singers, appearing for the appreciation of the rest of the small audience.

In this group, Mrs. M. Goolden's small pupils, Betty Roberts and Nora Tomlinson did ballet dances and Gloria Kahler entertained with interpretive Greek numbers. A playlet was given by a group of children under the direction of Mrs. Hayes, a spelling and recitation by Hugh Stocker, a group of Christmas song numbers by six children, a solo by Joe Trindler, "Away in a Manger" and a group of American School youngsters under the direction of Mrs. K. E. Graham gave a Gingerbread Man performance. Mrs. Graham also entertained the children with a few storysongs. Tea was served to them following the programme.

And at the Union Club

At the Union Club a different scene presented itself, there being mostly Chinese children with a sprinkling of needy foreign mites between the ages of 6 and 10. At this party 250 children in all were entertained with a good square tea, the trickster known as the "bird-man," and by Mr. Pan Ching-poo who dispensed gifts as Father Christmas. Each child was given a garment, toy, and a bag of goodies. Two Soochow tubs provided a Far Eastern version of a bran pie which the small guests eagerly investigated. A Chinese puppet show was also given as a part of the entertainment. Children from St. Faith's Settlement, the Door of Hope, Anti-Kidnapping Society, King's Daughter's Society, and from the Little Sisters of the Poor comprised the guests. The club was decorated with paper wisteria and a big Christmas tree, near which swung the balloons later distributed to the children.

Thanks are due to the following individuals and firms who so generously gave of time and materials to make this party a success: Mrs. A. D. Blackburn, Mrs. T. A. Clarke, Mrs. C. J. Smith, Mrs. Tung Lien and Miss England for the enormous amount of work connected with purchasing presents, and similar arrangements; Mesdames K. F. Kum, Lau, T. K. King, Tong, Toang, Potstone, Campbell, Phillipps and the Misses Rosie Kum and B. Calder-Marshall for their assistance in preparing parcels and arranging decorations; and to other members who assisted with the general arrangements of the party. The Committee of the Club wish to thank Messrs. Butterfield and Swire for the gift of sugar candy, Messrs. Robert Dollar & Co., and Messrs. C. Eddie for the gift of apples and oranges.

WEDDING

Young-Sweet

News has reached Shanghai of a pretty wedding recently in Vancouver, when Rev. O. M. Sanford united in marriage Mildred Victoria, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Sweet, and Mr. Robert A. Young, eldest son of Canon and Mrs. A. B. R. Young of Bath, England.

The bride was given away by her father and wore a dress of brocaded silver lace with hat to match. Her bouquet was composed of sweetheart roses. She was attended by her sister, Miss Myrtle Isabelle Sweet, who wore a French beaded gown of delicate rainbow shades with hat to match, and carried a shower bouquet of Ophelia roses. The groom was supported by Mr. R. C. Godfrey.

Later Mr. and Mrs. Young left for Seattle and Portland. The bride travelled in a dress of old rose and grey, with hat to match. On their return a reception will be held before their departure to their home in Shanghai.

Mr. Young is a member of the staff of the Canadian Pacific Railway and has many friends here, being a well-known riding man. Hunting in Ireland was his last adventure previous to the above. He expects to return to Shanghai on the R.M.S. Empress of Russia, arriving on January 10.

RECRUITING stations have been established locally by agents of the Allied Army but so far as we have been able to learn there has not been a very enthusiastic response.

ACCORDING to the *"Shanghai Nippo,"* Mr. Naguoka, Japanese Vice-Consul, on Wednesday handed to Mr. Hsu Yuan Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, $3,000 as compensation for the death of the now famous Chen Ah-dong, who was alleged to have been killed by Japanese members of the crew of the Mauri Maru. The Nagasaki Court found two of the men guilty. Deceased's family will receive this money from the Chinese authorities.

GAMBLING HOUSE MURDER

Wife of Detective Shot and Killed in Burkill Road; Her Money Untouched

A strange murder was committed on Thursday afternoon at 5.15 o'clock at 129 Burkill Road in the Sinza district when a young woman, the wife of a detective in the Chinese police, was shot dead.

The murder occurred in a house known by the police to be one of the many Chinese gambling houses of the Western district, masquerading under the cloak of a private residence.

From inquiries made by a detachment of police under the direction of Det. Sub-Inspr. Quayle, which entered the premises as soon as news of the shooting was learned, it was ascertained that the woman had been gambling during the afternoon quite heavily and had left the room for a few minutes. As she was walking down the corridor two shots were fired at her, one of them hitting her in the head and one in her breast, either of which would have proved fatal.

A mysterious part of the affair was that when the body was found there were about $250 on it, which had not been touched, definitely showing that robbery had not been the motive of the crime.

When the police reached the scene not a person was to be found, but several pieces of clothing had been left behind, all of the quality worn by rich Chinese, which led to the belief that the gamblers, on hearing the shots, had fled. Search parties were sent out and for more than an hour patrolled the immediate vicinity but no arrests were made. Up to a late hour last night inquiries were proceeding.

The body of the deceased woman was taken to the Public Mortuary where an inquest will be held this morning.

It is said that the case will be gone into quite thoroughly not only from the fact that the woman is the wife of a Chinese official, but as the police are making every effort to put down the plague of Chinese gambling which has been infecting the district now for some months.

B. W. A. NOTES

Dance to H. M. Ships

The chairman and executive committee wish all members of the British Women's Association a very happy Christmas.

Headquarters was gaily decorated with flags last Friday evening for the dance given to H. M. S. "Despatch," and His Majesty's other ships which were in harbour. There was a very good attendance, and both members and guests spent a most enjoyable time, the orchestral band of H. M. S. "Despatch" providing the music.

As the saying goes 'one good turn deserves another' and this was demonstrated by the brass band of H.M.S. "Despatch" who very kindly gave a musical programme at headquarters from 5—7 p.m., on Wednesday afternoon. A number of members and their friends were present, and tea was served during the concert in the lower hall, the band playing upstairs, which arrangement proved very satisfactory for the acoustic properties of the building.

On Friday, December 31, an entertainment for children has been arranged by the Dramatic Section. The programme, which will include a fairy play in two acts, will finish at 6.30 p.m., and all children of B.W.A. members will be welcome.

The concert-party of H. M. S. "Wild Swan" have been kind enough to arrange a variety programme to be given at headquarters on Tuesday next, December 28, at 9 p.m.

WORD has reached Shanghai from a Japanese source that the Japanese residents at Wonchow, Chekiang, have telegraphed the Japanese Consul-General to despatch a ship of war to protect their lives and property there, according to the Chinese press.

MUNICIPAL GAZETTE NEWS

Volunteer Corps.

American Company.—Lieutenant E. L. McCloskey is transferred to the Reserve of Officers.

Chinese Company.—Lieutenant T. Y. Chang to be Captain.

Public Health Report for November.

The health of the community continued to be satisfactory, and the death rates among both Foreigners and Chinese were about normal.

Cholera was entirely absent. No case of Smallpox occurred. Smallpox is occasionally present in Shanghai throughout the year, but usually becomes more prevalent in the winter. It is often of an extremely virulent type.

All persons who have not been recently protected against Smallpox by *efficient* vaccination, should see to it now, that they are protected *without delay.*

Not only is this of urgent importance for residents and new arrivals, but also for transient visitors who, not infrequently, become infected as they go shopping and sight-seeing, round the foreign and the native cities of Shanghai. In order to maintain a high state of immunity, vaccination should be repeated in China at least every three years. Over three thousand persons were freely vaccinated at the Branch Health Offices during the month.

The importance of a pure Food and Milk supply for personal and public health is being realised more and more day by day. In Shanghai, where the possibilities of infection are so manifold, this is specially so, and calls for the ceaseless vigilance and activity of the Food, Dairies and Markets Division of the Public Health Department.

During the month one hundred and seventy five samples of milk were taken for analysis. Two were found to be adulterated, and two of poor quality. The following are instances of practices and conditions discovered and dealt with by the Health Inspectors.

Mixed Court Report for November.

Criminal Cases.—The number of cases remanded for special hearing continues to increase, there being no less than 31 cases on the Special Hearing List at the end of the month, consequently many of these cases cannot come up for trial for periods of from 6 to 8 weeks. Preference, however, is always given as far as possible to those cases wherein the accused is remanded in custody or is unable to find security.

Change of Nationality.—The gambling charge first brought up by the Police in March of this year against A. Landau, C. Garcia, J. Chavez and A. Dimistrieff and 8 Chinese was, after many postponements on the question of the nationality of the accused, brought to trial on November 10 and 17. Several of the accused failed to appear and had their bail forfeited, one was fined $30 while the remainder of the Chinese were fined $5 each. In the case of A. Landau and J. Chavez the decision was reserved, these accused claimed Brazilian and Peruvian nationality, respectively. The Magistrate stated that Landau's claim to Brazilian citizenship rested entirely on a declaration and evidence given by himself. He had also claimed Turkish and Swiss nationality stating that he was born in Jerusalem in 1872 and that his nationality at birth was Turkish. He considered the evidence was not sufficient to establish the claim to Brazilian nationality or that defendant was in Brazil in 1899 and his claim to Brazilian nationality must fail. His nationality at birth being Turkish the defendant was subject to the jurisdiction of this Court.

Mr. Martin, the British Assessor, stated that he entirely agreed with the Magistrate.

Mr. Bensa, the Brazilian Assessor, said that it was outside the powers of this Court to discuss the merits of the registration certificate issued by a lawful and responsible authority (unless, of course, a forgery could be proved). The Court was in possession of a written and official certificate under the seal and sign-manual of a Consul General who thereby vouches for the nationality of the person in question and who is responsible for this act to his Government. Moreover, the defendant had been registered and his registration had been renewed yearly since the Consulate was established here. Mr. Landau was a Brazilian citizen since 1921. (According to Rule IV, Section 1, Art. 69/4 of the Brazilian Constitution and Art I. 472 of the Brazilian Consular Law) and this registration and Art. 472 of the Brazilian previous papers of protection issued to Landau by the French Consulate in China and the German Consulate in Bangkok.

On these grounds he disagreed with the decision given by the Chinese Magistrate and the British Assessor.

The decision on the question of nationality was therefore in accordance with the ruling of the Consular Body referred to the respective governments for final settlement.

Assessors.—Mr. T. Kaestli, Swiss Assessor and Special Assessor in German Cases, resigned on November 13. Mr. C. A. C. Brun, Vice-Consul for Denmark, was appointed by the Consular Body to sit as Assessor in German cases.

Mr. J. Van den Berg, Netherlands Assessor and Assessor in Chinese Civil Cases, resigned on November 30, on proceeding on Leave.

Chinese Civil Cases.—One hundred and thirty-four petitions were filed during the month, a decrease of 63 on the previous month's figures. Two hundred and twenty-seven cases were dealt with in the 77 sessions of Court, leaving at the end of the month 247 cases on the hearing list, 51 of which are part heard.

THE BURDEN OF BRONCHITIS.

High Medical Endorsement For PEPS Breathing Cure

Of all chest ailments bronchitis is by far the most insidious and deadly. Every year bronchitis claims its relentless toll of victims, especially amongst children and old folk. To the tens of thousands of chest sufferers who fear the advent of the cold season with its trying changes of temperatures Peps are an inestimable boon.

Bronchitis is really inflammation of the delicate membrane lining of the tubes that carry air to the lungs. Among the many symptoms are a peculiar tickling in the throat followed by intense nervous irritation in the region of the breast-bone; increased secretion of fluid which gives raise to the dreadful choking sensation and exhausting bouts of coughing; breathing difficulty; headaches; feverishness and debility.

The character of bronchitis being now made clear, it will be realised that the only rational treatment is by inhalation. For this Peps are ideal. The breathing-in of the lung-healing balsamic fumes emitted as Peps tablets are dissolved in the mouth is endorsed by medical men of to-day as the treatment which is correct and most effective.

Swallowing liquid medicines, which merely act on the stomach and not on the organs affected, will never reach deep-seated chest trouble.

As you breathe deeply of the Peps fumes, the sore inflamed air passages, chest and lungs are bathed with a soothing and healing influence. Phlegm is cut, and loosened by Peps, inflammation and irritation is allayed, and immediate chest comfort and breathing ease is experienced.

At this season the menace to throat and lungs is so serious that everyone needs the protection of Peps. Even delicate children and frail old folk can take Peps with the utmost safety and benefit. They are invaluable for coughs, colds, chills, sore throat, laryngitis, bronchitis, asthma, etc. Chemists and dispensaries everywhere sell Peps in sealed glass bottles.

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CORRESPONDENCE

"PROPHETS AND PROFITS"

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Recent communications in the press have referred to our local rubber share market, and its investment potentialities.

One writer has taken three examples at random—Kroewocks, Tanah Merahs and Tebongs—and expressed the opinion:—"that someone has an extremely expensive baby to be foisted off on an ignorant someone else in the near future."

He also opines:—"I personally have no doubt that the present high prices of rubber shares are in no way justified by returns."

Disagreeing with his view, an eminent firm of sharebrokers has gone to some trouble to point that at present market prices an investment in the above-mentioned companies should return an average of about 10 per cent. by way of dividend.

Further than this, they point out that:—"Some of our companies have *unused coupons* in hand for a considerable amount of rubber, which goes far to annulling the temporary inconvenience at which they are placed due to the 20 per cent. cut."

They record their opinion that:—"We cannot see that anyone is 'carrying the baby' in buying shares at the present moment, especially if they are financially strong enough to hold for a period of time."

Touching the soothing syrup of the "Unused Coupon" for those carrying rubber-babies, I note that Messrs Symington and Sinclair of London in their report on the state of the rubber market for the week ended November 4, make extended reference to this anodyne, using the following sentences:—

"The reason for the decline is to be found in disappointment at the manner in which the unused export licences or coupons have been dealt with."

"So far as the immediate future of the market is concerned, the fate of these unused licences is more important even than the 20 per cent. cut."

"After the drop in prices. . . . owing to the disappointment in the matter of coupons. . . . ."

Rubber then stood at 1/7¼d.

One gathers that a feeling of disappointment prevailed in London regarding the magic of "Unused Coupons" in early November, and one rejoices that no such feelings prevail in Shanghai on December 19 with rubber standing at 1/6¾d., for the local firm of brokers already quoted express the following opinion:—

"With the uncertainty of the situation prevailing locally, many new investors, both foreign and Chinese, are considering rubbers as about the best lock-up for their money."

They also give an interesting table of highest and lowest prices for shares since the September settlement day.

	Kroewocks	T' Merahs	Tebongs
Sept. 28.	35	1.80	4.13
Oct. 26.	45	2.26	5.65
Dec. 18	35½	1.80	3.65

According to this table, dividends paid by the above three companies during the quarter amount to the sum of Tls. 55,000.

Now in order to get a general birds-eye view of what the above fluctuations mean during the past three months, and the relative dividend—return to investors—one can tabulate as follows:—

	Shares	Sept. 28 Market Value
Kroewocks	56,00 @ 35—$1,925,000	
T' Merahs	1,300,000 @ 1.80—$2,340,000	
Tebongs	710,000 @ 4.10—$2,911,000	
Total		$7,176,000

Market values, Oct. 26	6,965,000
" Dec. 18	6,724,000

These figures enable one to envisage the tedious pastime of holding the rubber-baby in the following terms:—

In three months three Shanghai companies have depreciated Tls. 452,000 in market valuation, but have accretioned Tls. 55,000 in dividends.

In the two months, since October 26, these same companies have depreciated Tls. 2,261,000 in market valuation, with accretion of Tls. 55,000 in dividends.

Whether it is worth while to pay Tls. 2,260,000 in cash in two months to receive Tls. 55,000 in dividends is a matter of taste, of course.

It is cheaper, naturally and obviously, merely to pay Tls 450,000 in cash in three months to receive that Tls. 55,000 in dividends.

But the puzzle is—whether the securing of dividends in this way *is really worth the cost?*

I draw the conclusion that: Shanghai investors are like the deluded animal in the fable who, having a good piece of meat in his mouth, walks on a plank over the water in which he sees the reflexion of another piece of meat—so he drops what he has, and pursues the reflected morsel.

It seems to me that seekers after wealth are at present concentrating on working out their nine, 10, or 12 per cent. and so on in terms of *return on capital in dividends.*

Experts minister diligently to this pursuit rendering it abundantly clear and easy for them to do so.

But, is this the whole of the story?

Would it not be equally interesting—even profitable, perhaps—if Shanghai investors would calculate as to the *other factor*—viz., *loss of capital in securing dividends?*

If I spend Tls. 2,260,000 in a couple of months to make Tls. 55,000—do I make a profit, or a loss?

If I am economical and only spend Tls. 450,000 in three months to acquire the Tls. 55,000 prize piece of meat—what, peradventure is my percentage of gain in dividend-acquiring-experience as compared with my loss in cool-cash?

On the answer to these two conundrums will depend the answer to a third:—Is the cost of gaining local market experience worth the cash you get in dividends?

I have no idea. I leave the solution to eminent experts and financial wizards, who have these things at their finger tips, and who can spiflicate my little sums in elementary arithmetic by bewildering me with visions of Unused Coupons and other sources of wealth.

We do not doubt that dividends are paid to us—for certainly they are—but the perplexity which haunts us is:—Does it *pay us* to be paid *these dividends!* !

I am, etc.,
PERPLEXED PUNTER.

Shanghai, Dec. 20, 1926.

A DISGRACEFUL ROAD

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Mr. A. E. Baer's reference to that section of Route Amiral Courbet referred to in his letter published to-day does not overstate the disgraceful maintenance of a municipal road. During the past six months this particular corner has been flooded twice and photographs published will be recalled by your readers. At the time, we understood that the F.M.C. were devising a scheme to eliminate any repetition of flooding as far as possible. Time passes and partial foot paving on one side of Route Amiral Courbet also raising the road level of a section of Route Ratard is an indication of something done. Rue Ratard between Amiral Courbet and Avenue du Roi Albert is apparently "No man's land" for the pedestrian; an open foul drainage creek adjoins the splendid new staff quarters of the Yokohama Specie Bank and is overlooked by the Sanitary Department. Route Amiral Courbet being half a road only, motorists out of consideration for their tyres prefer to use the wrong side of the road, policemen on point duty reflect on traffic rules, pedestrians submit to being splashed by water and mud by inconsiderate motorists who rush through the flooded area.

In conclusion, I would suggest that the French Municipal Council postpone any further elaborate road planning, which involves heavy expenditure, and concentrate on a more intensive foot-paving scheme and help thereby to solve the congested traffic problem by keeping pedestrians off the roads by giving a pavement to walk on instead of a mud track marked off from the traffic area by a granite chip gutter.

Motorists as well as pedestrians will benefit by pavements. This area is an important traffic route to approach the Bund and deserves more consideration than at present is apparent.

Rue Ratard should be a traffic road to town but is not. Motorists can explain.

I am, etc.,
A. WALKER.

Shanghai, Dec. 17, 1926.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—In view of the correspondence in your paper about the condition of certain roads in the French Concession, I enclose copy of letter written by me to the French Council regarding the state of affairs on Route Ferguson. In spite of that letter nothing has been done by the Council to remedy matters. If anything, conditions to-day are worse than when my letter was written.

I am, etc.,
H. P. KING.

Shanghai, Dec. 22, 1926.

28, The Bund,
Dec. 20, 1926.

The Secretary,
French Municipal Council

SIR,—I have to call your attention to a disgraceful state of affairs now existing on Route Ferguson.

The riding track opposite house No. 103 is being macadamized on the east side of the road, and the footpath on that side is blocked with material. Consequently, that footpath cannot be used by pedestrians. One would naturally suppose that any person supervising that work would see to it that one footpath on the road would be kept open for pedestrians. But this has not been done. The footpath on the west side of the road is also blocked with material, and the usual workmen's hut has actually been erected on that footpath. One can only suppose that the person supervising the work does not possess the modicum of common sense.

The result now is that pedestrians have to keep to the road, which is just wide enough to allow a motor car to pass, and when a car comes along the pedestrian has to step into the mud, and get splashed with the mud and water thrown up by the car.

I venture to suggest that such a disgraceful state of affairs would not be allowed in any other civilized community, and I trust that, now your attention has been called to this, it will be remedied.

Yours truly,
H. P. KING.

HARA-KARI

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—One reads to-day the account of the story how Count Nogi, the great patriot of Japan, took his own life on the death of his master, the Emperor Meiji. To me who hear the story for the first time, it cannot but make a profound impression. I feel myself irresistibly attracted to the almost divine Count and his supreme sacrifice.

We live not for the sake of living a long life; we have higher purposes to achieve. When some higher principle is at stake, when life cannot be preserved without violating one such principle which is the real purpose of our lives to live up to, then why not bravely resign our lives?

The story of Count Nogi brings to my mind a very similar story of Vung Tien-ziang, the famous Chinese patriot at the end of the Sung Dynasty. When the Mongols had conquered China and captured the Chinese Emperor, Vung Tien-ziang, a retired scholar hitherto living in luxury and ease, immediately and, with a handful of friends and servants, tried to turn the fortune of the day. He was defeated many times and twice made prisoner; but to the end he persevered in his cause. What hardships and perils he passed through can be well imagined. Even the Mongol Emperor was deeply struck with his loyalty and did all he could to persuade him to surrender. The third time he was captured, he was brought to Peking and offered the post of prime minister if he would only surrender. But Vung Tien-ziang did not hesitate a moment in preferring death to wealth and honour. Very reluctantly the Emperor sentenced him to death. At the time of his execution, there was a countless number of spectators; and all alike cheered and wept!

It is said that Vung-Tien-ziang's wife also died tragically by her own hand. She was captured by the Mongols; and before she would dishonour herself and her husband, she promptly committed suicide. When Vung Tien-ziang heard of it, he cried, "Alone in this world stand thou and I!" A worthy pair, alone indeed in this world of falsehood and treachery!

Count Nogi died for his master, the Emperor; Vung Tien-ziang died for his country, the dynasty of Sung. The women probably died for their husbands. The cause for which they died might not be the highest possible; but the very fact that they so nobly sacrified their lives for their cause must make them deserving our highest admiration and respect.

I am, etc.,
F. D. Z.

Shanghai, Dec. 21, 1926.

MISSIONARY POLICY AND METHOD

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—In to-day's issue Mr. Sokolsky says that "the social revolution strikes at no *institution* as hard as it does against the Christian missionary. For, with few exceptions, the missionary stands for the retention of old forms. His own religion ought to assist him to sympathize with the young men and women who seek freedom and individuality, but apparently it does not."

But what would another of your esteemed correspondents, Mr. Rodney Gilbert, say about the missionary standing for "the retention of old forms?" He blames the poor mish. for stimulating this same social revolution with his mission school education, whilst Mr. Sokolsky says this same patient creature is not in sympathy with Young China. Which correspondent has the most light on this subject?

I am, etc.,
JOHN S. BARR.

Shanghai, Dec. 21, 1926.

BRIDGE

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR:—Can any of your readers adjudicate on this point.

In playing Bridge the declarer bids grand slam and is promptly doubled. He has 100 for honours but goes one down, i.e., makes only small slam. Is he entitled to score his 50 points for the small slam as well as his honours. The opponents naturally taking their 100 for putting declarer one down.

I am, etc.,
R. V. M.

Shanghai, Dec. 16, 1926.

A MISSING VERSE

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—It seems hard that no man should jump forward to voice the plaint of Juliet, as requested by your recent correspondent. Perhaps it is more fitting that one of her sex should do so, trusting to the editorial discretion as to its availability for publication.

There are as many small changes as there are singers, but the substance is as follows:—

"I am the heroine of this tale of woe.
I'm Juliet, I'm Juliet.
I am the damsel that mashed Romeo.
I'm Juliet, Juliet.
Locked in a tomb without pickaxe to force it,
Nasty old hole without room to stand or sit.
I up and stabbed myself right through the corset.
I'm Juliet, Juliet.

"This is the moral of this tale of woe
Of Juliet and Romeo,
Cribbed out of Shakespeare and reeking with woe.
Oh Juliet and Romeo:—
Lovers in Springtime it pays to be wary.
Don't buy your drinks of an a-pothecary.
Don't stab yourselves in the left pulmonary.
Like Juliet and Romeo."

I am, etc.,
CARPING CRITIC.

Shanghai, Dec. 18, 1926.

MILEAGE PER GALLON

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—In a recent issue of your paper under "Motor Notes" an account was given of some remarkable results from Ford cars. These were stated to be absolutely standard models, four seaters and open cars, I think, one of which ran 49.3 miles on a gallon of petrol, presumably American measure, equivalent to just over 59 miles on an English gallon. I do not know what the cubic capacity of the Ford engine is but it must be somewhere about 1500 c.c. and although we are not told of the nature of the trial i.e., whether it was over hilly or flat country, or round a track, yet the figures verge on the phenomenal.

If we allow 25 per cent. to cover the difference between running conditions in the country as compared with those in town, the valiant Lizzie mentioned above would reel off something like 37 miles to the U.S. gallon if located right here in Shanghai.

My car has an engine capacity of about 900 c.c. and weighs some 8 cwt., which is no doubt less than the weight of a Ford 4 seater and yet the best I get is 40/42 per U.S. gallon, during the hot weather. In the cold weather it only does about 30/33 m.p.g.

It would be very interesting to hear if any of our local motorists who are proud possessors of America's national car, find them such excellent aids to combat the H.C.L. as they certainly would appear to be, judging from the article I have mentioned.

I am, etc.,
HONK.

Shanghai, Dec. 16, 1926.

HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE?

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—"A wife asked her husband to copy the radio recipe one morning. The husband got two stations at once. One was radio-casting morning exercises and the other the daily menu. This is what he got: 'Hands on hips, place one cup of flour on shoulders, raise knees, and depress toes, and wash thoroughly in one-half cup of milk. In four counts raise the lower legs and mash two hard-boiled eggs in a sieve. Repeat six times. Inhale one-half teaspoon of baking powder and one cup of flour; breathe naturally and exhale and sift. Attention, jump to a squatting position. Stretch lemon extract backward, forward, over head and in four counts make a stiff dough that will bend at the waist. Lie flat on the floor and roll into a marble the size of a walnut. Hop to a stand in boiling water, but do not boil into a gallop afterwards. In ten minutes remove and dry with a dry towel. Breathe naturally and dress in warm flannels and serve with fish soup!'"—By F. M. Harding, in the Overseas Monthly Mag.

I am, etc.,
N. CHURCHILL.

Shanghai, Dec. 16, 1926.

THE Government students here (writes our Hwaiking, Ho., correspondent on Dec. 9) have been painting the city red.

A TELEGRAM has been issued to the Diplomatic body at Peking from the Federation of three provinces of Kiangsu, Anhui, and Chêkiang, to the effect that the friendly Powers of the country should keep their hands off China's internal struggles, and should not supply the opposing forces with war materials or other contraband goods.

MANY of our readers will note with pleasure that Dr. W. H. Venable of the Kuling Community Hospital has received the honour of election to the membership of the American Tuberculosis Association. Dr. Venable spent a part of his recent vacation in special research work on the subject of tuberculosis, and is a recognized authority on this disease in China.

WE are informed that Admiral Pi Shou-chen, Governor of Tsingtao and Commander of the Pechihli Fleet of the Chinese Navy, who is one of Marshal Chang Chung-chang's leading subordinates, will arrive in Shanghai shortly to cooperate with Admiral Yang Shu-chuang, the Allied Commander-in-Chief, in the defence of Shanghai and Woosung and the patrol of the Chêkiang coast. Admiral Pi is the only Chinese officer who holds a concurrent military post, his title being General in the Fengtien army.

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MEETINGS

SHANGHAI WATER WORKS CO.

Extraordinary General Meeting to Confirm Recent Resolutions

A special confirmatory meeting of the Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld., took place at the company's head office, 69 Kiangse Road, last Friday afternoon. Mr. H. M. Little presided and he was supported by Messrs. A. W. Burkill, L. E. Canning and H. V. Wilkinson (directors) and the secretary, Mr. W. R. Walter. The total number of shares represented was 21,760.

In the course of his address, the chairman said:—

Gentlemen,— At the extraordinary general meeting held on the 2nd instant, resolutions Nos. 2 and 3 as set forth in the notice dated September 30, 1926, were passed as extraordinary resolutions and they now require your confirmation as special resolutions. Resolution No. 2 provides for the splitting up of the unissued shares in the capital of the company into shares of $1 each. Resolution No. 3 deals with the substitution of new articles of association for the existing ones.

There are two further resolutions which I shall shortly propose, provided the resolutions I have just mentioned are confirmed as special resolutions, No. 4 authorizing the offer at par of 167,650 shares of $1 each in the company's capital to shareholders on the register and holders of share warrants to bearer on September 30 last, and No. 5 setting free for distribution as an accretion of capital among the shareholders in this company, 201,180 shares of one tael each in the Shanghai Waterworks Fittings Co., Ld.

Particulars and forms of offer and acceptance of the B shares to be issued under the provision of resolution 4 have already been sent to you and I do not think that any further explanation from me is necessary. I may remind you, however, that acceptances must reach the company on or before Monday next, the 20th instant. The money is required to meet expenditure on various new works necessitated by the ever increasing demand for water and I trust that the issue will receive your support.

Resolution No. 5 dealing with the distribution of shares of the Shanghai Waterworks Fittings Co., Ld., is a result of the requirement of the Municipal Council that a separate company be formed to take over the business, assets and liabilities of our fittings department as from December 31, 1926. As explained in the circular letter to shareholders dated 1, September 30 last, the Municipal Council considered that, as our dividends are to a large extent assured by the periodical revision of water rates, it would be improper for us to be in a position to afford any financial assistance to the fittings business. We agreed to the separation, in return for certain concessions on other points, with some reluctance as we considered that the business of the fittings department having been built up by the company, should continue to be part and parcel of the undertaking. However, we have agreed and it is up to us to carry out part of the bargain. The Shanghai Waterworks Fittings Co., Ld. was incorporated last week under the Hongkong Ordinances and will take over the business, assets and liabilities of the fittings department as a going concern as from January 1 next. The existing staff of the fittings department will be transferred to the new company and continuity of operation is thereby assured.

Our fittings department was started in the very early days of the company; at that time it was necessary to instal fittings at very low cost in order to induce consumers to take the company's water. For many years we had a virtual monopoly and now, in spite of severe competition, we claim to be the largest contractors for sanitary and heating installations in Shanghai. I trust that our many customers will give to the Shanghai Waterworks Fittings Co., Ld. the same measure of support that they now accord to our fittings department. As mentioned in the circular letter of September 30 last, we have obtained considerable contracts for heating and sanitary installations, the benefit of which will go to the new company. I may mention among others the new Custom House, the new Race Club buildings, the new French School in Route Vallon, the new Synagogue in Museum Road, new office buildings in Yuen Ming Yuen and Museum Roads and the new apartment buildings which the Wing On Co., Ld. are erecting in Bubbling Well Road.

Gentlemen, I do not wish to be too optimistic, competition is very keen and very careful management will be required in order that the new company may be on a dividend paying basis. It only remains for me to wish The Shanghai Waterworks Fittings Co., Ld. a successful existence.

If you pass resolution No. 5 the shares of the new company will be allotted to shareholders on the register to-day and to holders of share warrants to bearer in exchange for coupon No. 25.

I hope that the resolutions I am about to propose will meet with your approval. I shall be pleased to answer any questions you may wish to put, to the best of my ability.

There being no questions, the following resolutions were proposed by the chairman, seconded by Mr. Burkill, and carried as special resolutions:—

That each of the remaining nine thousand seven hundred and sixty-four (9,764) shares in the company's capital be divided into twenty (20) shares of one pound (£1) each.

That the regulations contained in the printed document submitted to this meeting and for the purpose of identification subscribed by the chairman thereof be approved and adopted as the articles of association of the company in substitution for and to the exclusion all the existing articles thereof and that in the event of any resolution being passed under any of such articles it shall be no objection thereto that it may have been passed at the meeting at which the resolution adopting such articles was confirmed as a special resolution provided that due notice of the intention to propose such first mentioned resolution shall have been given previous to the holding of the confirmatory meeting aforesaid.

The other resolutions referred to were proposed by the chairman, seconded by Mr. Burkill and carried unanimously. They read as follows:—

That the directors be authorized to offer at par one hundred and sixty-seven thousand six hundred and fifty (167,650) shares of one pound (£1) each in the company's capital to the shareholders of the company whose names appeared on the company's register and/or who were the holders of share warrants to bearer of the company on September 30, 1926, in proportion as nearly as may be to the number of shares then held by them respectively subject to the condition that the said shares shall not except as provided in the agreement made between the Shanghai Municipal Council and the company and dated September 28, 1926, carry the right to any greater dividend in any year than a dividend at the rate of seven (7) per cent per annum on the capital paid up thereon respectively excluding any extra dividends or bonus payable under clauses 7 and 8 of the said agreement and that such shares shall not be entitled to participate in any dividend whether interim or otherwise declared previous to January 1, 1927, or in any dividend subsequently declared in respect of any period previous to January 1, 1927, but save as aforesaid shall rank for dividend as from that date.

It appearing by the certificate of Messrs. Lowe, Bingham & Matthews, the auditors of the company, that the assets of the company exclusive of two hundred and one thousand one hundred and eighty (201,180) shares of one (1) tael each in the Shanghai Waterworks Fittings Co., Ld., which are either registered in the name of the company or to which the company is otherwise entitled in consequence of the sale of the fittings department are sufficient to cover all the debts and liabilities of the company and its issued and paid up capital and being therefore assets in the hands of the company available for dividend within the meaning of article 139 of the company's articles of association it is hereby Resolved that the said two hundred and one thousand one hundred and eighty (201,180) shares be set free for distribution as an accretion of capital among the holders of shares of twenty pounds (£20) each (excluding the bonus shares referred to in the above resolution numbered (1) in the company according to their rights on the basis of six (6) shares of one (1) tael each for each share of twenty pounds (£20) (excluding the said bonus shares) held in the company on the footing that the same be not realized and distributed in cash but be distributed in specie among the said shareholders of the company in manner aforesaid.

SHANGHAI KEDAH PLANTATIONS

Substantial Profit on the Year's Working: Estate in Good Shape

The sixth annual general meeting of the Shanghai Kedah Plantations, Ld., was held last Friday in the offices of the secretaries and general managers, Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons, Mr. A. W. Burkill presiding. The chairman was supported by Messrs. G. M. W. Hummel and E. E. Parsons (directors) and Mr. C. J. Smith, who represented the secretaries and general managers. There was an attendance representing 81,204 shares.

The chairman said:—

Gentlemen,—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some time, I will, with your permission, follow the usual course and take them as read.

During the year the producing area has been increased by 180 acres, 61 acres on Paya Kamunting and 119 acres on Riverside having been brought into tapping. On Paya Kamunting an area of 114 acres was cleared and during the current year it is proposed to clear and plant up a further 120 acres. At the last annual meeting of the company you were informed that arrangements for the taking over of 262 acres at Riverside which had been let to a Chinese contractor for tapioca planting had been completed and I am glad to say that we were fortunate in being able to cancel the tapioca contract by a cash payment of Str. $17,285. Considering the expense in felling and clearing the jungle and planting with young rubber trees, the payment of Str. $66 per acre as compensation to the Chinese Contractor for foregoing the planting of a further crop of tapioca has been a very sound investment. Our visiting agent reports that he was very favourably impressed with the general growth and appearance of the new clearing and was surprised to see so little lalang after the tapioca, in fact it was only here and there that small sporadic patches were to be seen. When all the extensions which I have just enumerated are completed, the total planted area of our estates will be 1,181 acres. On an issued capital of Tls. 300,000 this works out at a cost of approximately Tls. 165 per planted acre or, at present exchange, less than £20 per acre.

Generally speaking, the estates are in excellent order and it is pleasing to report that the properties continue to be comparatively free from disease or pest. Occasionally cases of trees affected with root disease are found and these receive early attention. The labour position has considerably improved and recruits from India are still coming in. The health of the force on the whole was very satisfactory.

The accounts are presented in the usual form and call for little comment. The result of the year's working, I think you will agree, is very satisfactory indeed and the excellent showing is due in a great measure to the higher exportable allowance for the period under review and the consequent substantial reduction of 1.26d. per lb. in the "all-in" cost of production. The average price received from the sale of our crop was 1s. 9.84d. which is practically the same as last year.

The year's working shows a profit of Tls. 184,730.45 approximately 61 per cent. on the present Capital. Two interim dividends of 30 and 15 per cent. were paid during the year and I will later propose the payment of a final dividend of 20 tael cents per share making a total of 45 per cent. for the year. It is also proposed to place a further sum of Tls. 20,000 to general reserve account, bringing this account up to Tls. 35,000, to pay a bonus of Tls. 3,000 to estate managers and staff and to write off assets Tls. 16,349.12, leaving a balance of Tls. 15,904.72 to be carried forward to next year's accounts.

It is with extreme regret that I have to report the death from a motor car accident last April of Mr. N. F. Symes, manager of Riverside Estate. Mr. Symes who had been in charge of Riverside for many years was an efficient and conscientious manager and by his death the company loses a very valuable servant. Mr. van Cuylenberg who has been connected with the estate for many years as assistant has now been placed in charge and his management is very well reported upon.

Before concluding I would like to express the board's appreciation of the good work done by the estate staffs as well as those of our Penang agents and visiting agents for the good care of our properties.

That is all I have to say, gentlemen: if any shareholder has any questions to ask, I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability.

There were no questions as the following resolutions were proposed, seconded and carried unanimously:—

Proposed by Mr. A. W. Burkill and seconded by Mr. G. M. W. Hummel—That the report and accounts for the year ended September 30, 1926, as presented be accepted.

Proposed by Mr. A. W. Burkill and seconded by Mr. E. E. Parsons—That the following recommendation as to the appropriation of the balance at credit of profit and loss account, as presented, be accepted:

	Tls.
Pay final dividend of Tls. 0.20 per share (making 45 per cent. for the year)	60,000.00
Place to general reserve	20,000.00
Pay bonus to estate managers	3,000.00
Write off development account	7,968.12
Write off buildings	5,018.89
Write off wells and water supply	3,174.64
Write off Furniture and fittings	72.42
Write off live Stock and carts	1,124.05
Carry forward	15,904.72
	Tls. 115,253.84

Proposed by Mr. H. J. Clark and seconded by Mr. Chun Kee-wai—That the appointment of Mr. A. W. Burkill as a director of the company be confirmed.

Proposed by Mr. E. E. Parsons and seconded by Mr. E. A. Prince—That Mr. G. M. W. Hummel be re-elected a director of the company.

Proposed by Mr. H. J. Clark and seconded by Mr. Chun Kee-wai—That Messrs. Lowe, Bingham & Matthews be re-elected auditors to the company.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SHANGHAI KLEBANG RUBBER ESTATE

The Proposal to Sell Tin Dredging Rights: Condition of the Trees

An extraordinary meeting of the Shanghai Klebang Rubber Estate, Ld., took place on Wednesday afternoon at the offices of the secretaries and general managers, Messrs. J. A. Wattie & Co., Ld., 10 Canton Road, Mr. C. J. L. Stewart presiding. The chairman was supported by Messrs. A. K. Craddock and H. E. Riggs (directors) and Mr. A. J. Welch, for the secretaries. There was an attendance representing 41,028 shares.

In the course of his speech, the Chairman said:—

Gentlemen,—The circular convening this meeting has been in your hands for several days and you are, no doubt, all fully familiar with its contents.

Your directors have endeavoured to set forth as fully as possible in the circular the proposition that we have met to discuss and there remains very little for me to say.

The resolution, which I will propose later, is only a simple resolution and requires no confirmatory meeting, since the articles of association already give the board the powers that you will later on be asked to confirm. Your directors felt, however, that the proposal affected the future of the company so vitally, the matter was one that should be submitted to you for your acceptance or rejection as the case may be.

Testing the Ground for Tin

Now, as regards the proposal itself. This company owns a total area of 518 acres, the configuration of some 420 acres of which is considered to be suitable for dredging purposes and included in this area are 84 acres of swamp. Whether or not, this land contains tin ore in paying quantities remains to be seen, and the people we are negotiating with require five months in which thoroughly to test the value of the ground by boring; thereafter, if they decide to exercise the option, it will be necessary for them to order a dredger, which will take the best part of a year to build and deliver on the estate. It is estimated that a dredger will work over from 20/25 acres per annum, and as work will naturally commence in the swampy ground, it is not likely that any of our rubber will be touched for quite four years to come, and even then the area will only be encroached upon at the rate of 20/25 acres annually.

Furthermore, we shall have ample warning before any rubber is touched which will enable us to tap the trees intensively on any given area and thus obtain as much rubber from them, as possible, before they are destroyed.

The test boring, which means putting down not more than two bores per acre, and probably only one, will not in any way damage the trees.

Power to Sell Land

In the resolution you are asked to give your directors the power to sell anything up to 420 acres at a price of not less than $1,000 per acre. This power is being asked for, because it is conceivable that boring may disclose that the only parts of the estate worth working are the swamps and low lying land, in which case it may be found to be more advantageous for us to sell than to work on a tribute basis, but this naturally cannot be decided until the results of boring are known.

In the meantime, as matters now stand, your directors have no hesitation in recommending you to accept the tribute basis, as after having gone into the matter very thoroughly, they are convinced that this will be best for your pockets in the long run, since by doing so we shall derive for many years to come the full benefit of the profit on the rubber from the whole of our present planted area and in addition the swamps, which are at present unproductive, will be yielding us our share of any tin ore that may be produced.

Eventually, in say 20 years time, we shall be left with not more than 100 acres of rubber, but this is a condition that will probably pertain in any case, since the average age of the trees on the estate is now 18 years and four months and root disease is becoming uncomfortably prevalent.

That is all I have to say, gentlemen, but before formally proposing the resolution, I shall be pleased to answers any questions you may wish to ask.

The Resolution

The company having received from parties concerned an application for licence to test bore for tin over an area of about 420 acres of the company's estate near Ipoh for a period of five months Resolved and the Directors are hereby authorized to grant such licence and at the expiration of the said period or sooner.....either (a) to enter into an agreement with such parties or their nominees granting the same the right to dredge for tin over such area on the basis of payment by such parties of a tribute of 10 per cent. of all ore recovered and on such other terms and conditions as the directors may think fit, or (b) to sell to such parties or their nominees the said area or part thereof at a price of not less than $1,000 per acre and on such other terms and conditions as the directors may think fit—Proposed by The Chairman and seconded by Mr. A. K. Craddock.

Mr. C. P. Dawson said that he supposed the people who were inquiring were experienced in the tin mining line. It was no good of dealing with people who, like themselves, were not experienced.

The chairman said they were already in the tin business and were well known mining people.

Mr. Dawson observed that the circular did not give any names, and the chairman remarked that formally it was not necessary.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and adopted unanimously. There was no other business and the meeting terminated.

In response to telegrams from Chinese who claim to have sustained losses in connexion with the fall of the Russian rouble, the Peking Waichiaopu says that, up to the present, the negotiations with the Soviet Government regarding the payment of indemnity to Chinese holders have been fruitless.

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COMMERCE AND FINANCE

MONEY & EXCHANGE

YESTERDAY'S RATES

Hongkong & Shanghai Bank

Bank's Demand Selling Rate for £1 at 2/4⅛=Tls. 8.33 at 73.35 =$11.36

Bank's Demand Selling Rate for G.$100 at 58⅛=Tls. 171.31 at 73.35 =$233.56

Chinese Dollars; market rate 73.5375

Native Interest	05
Copper Cash	362,000
Bar Silver	24⅞
Bank rate of Discount	4 per cent.
New York on London	G.$4.85⅛

OPENING SELLING RATES.

LONDON—	Per Tael
Telegraphic Transfer	2/4⅞
Demand	2/4⅛
NEW YORK—	
Telegraphic Transfer	G.$0.58⅛
Demand	0.58⅛
PARIS—	
Demand	Francs 14.65 nom.
INDIA—	
Demand	Rupees 160⅜
HONGKONG—	
Demand	Hk. $0.82⅛
YOKOHAMA—	
Demand	Yen 0.84
BATAVIA—	
Demand	Guilden 1.44⅛
SINGAPORE—	
Demand	Straits $0.97

OPENING BUYING RATES.

LONDON—	Per Tael
Demand	2/5⅛
4 m/s. credits	2/03
4 m/s. Docs.	2/01
6 m/s. credits	2/7⅛
6 m/s. Docs.	2/7⅛
NEW YORK—	
Demand	59⅜
4 m/s. credits	61⅛
4 m/s. Docs.	62⅛
PARIS—	
4 m/s. Docs.	Francs 15.90 nom.

Closing business done at

London T.T.	2/5⅛
New York T.T.	59⅛

American Oriental Bank

CLOSING RATES

SELLING DEMAND DRAFT

U.S.	G.$100.00	Mex. $229.80
Stg.	1.1.0	„ 11.19
Frs.	100.00	„ 9.31
Yen	100.00	„ 112.00

BUYING DEMAND DRAFT

U.S.	G.$100.00	Mex. $224.76
Stg.	£1.0.0	„ 10.90
Frs.	100.00	„ 8.66
Yen	100.00	„ 110.13

Italian Bank for China

SELLING RATES

It. Lire 10.10	Tl. 1
Swiss Frs. 3.03	Tl. 1
It. Lire 10.70	Y. 1
It. Lire 9.60	Mex. $1

Subsidiary Coin Exchange

MEX. AND CHINESE DOLLARS:—

a.m.	100=Tls. 73.5375
p.m.	100=Tls. 73.775

KIANGSU SILVER 20-CENTS:—

a.m.	500=Tls. 67.5
p.m.	500=Tls. 65

CANTON SILVER 20-CENTS:—

a.m.	500=Tls. 61.95
p.m.	500=Tls. 62

COPPERS:—

a.m.	363,000 coppers—Tls. 100
p.m.	303,000 coppers=Tls. 100

SMALL CHANGE:—

5 silver 20-cents & ■ coppers	=$1
265 coppers	=$1
21 coppers	=10-cents silver
Mex. $1	=Tls. 0.735375
Tls. 1	=Mex. 1.36

Native Interest (Per Day)

a.m.	Tls. 0.05 per Tls. 1,000
p.m.	Tls. 0.04 per Tls. 1,000

Customs Dec. Exchange Rates

Hk. Tls.	7.36	£1
„	1	Francs 19.13
„	1	Reichmarks 2.78
„	1.51	Gold $1
„	1	Yen 1.33
„	1	Rupees 1.81
„	1	Guilders 1.65
„	1	Mex. $1.36
„	1	It. Lire 15.70
„	1	Sw. Francs 3.42

SHANGHAI EXCHANGE MARKET

Some Strength Last Week, Followed, However, by Renewed Dullness

The following notes on the exchange market deal with the week ending December 18:—

On at least two occasions during the week the Shanghai exchange market showed strength, but the firmness was but shortlived and gave way to pronounced dullness. The principal reasons for the sporadic attempts towards strength were: Firstly the desire on the part of the Chinese speculators to reduce a portion of their overbought gold position; secondly the purchase by the U. S. Treasury of one million ounces of silver for subsidiary coinage; and finally a statement made by the Finance Minister according to which the Indian Government had not sold silver recently and was not contemplating such sales in the near future.

These factors were, however, offset by the prolonged absence of trade in China and the uncertainty in connexion with the political and military situation. The mints at Nanking and Hangchow have had to be closed, so that incoming silver stocks cannot now be consumed there. The total amount of cash at Shanghai has been reduced recently and is now five million taels below the average for the past two months. Nevertheless money is easy here, as is witnessed by the fact that banks are better buyers for gold currencies for near delivery than for forward. Judging by general symptoms the undertone of silver is still easy, though no considerable change is expected at present.

The Indian Currency Bill

The report of the Royal Currency Commission is to come before the Delhi Assembly in about a month's time, and it would be idle to discuss the chances of its passing or being rejected. On the other hand it is of much importance to multitudes of people to know whether and how much silver is likely to be disposed of by the Indian Government. As an introductory remark it may be stated here that during 1925 the world's production of gold was about 19 million ounces, valued at 400 million U.S.$. The total production of silver was 240 million fine ounces. In the course of 1925 India took one half of the world's total output of gold, and besides over 40 per cent. of the world's silver production. All the wealth was acquired by the people, and none served monetary purposes. This goes to prove that, given good crop results, India is capable of absorbing enormous quantities of the precious metals.

While the Currency Report speaks of a gradual disposal (within 10 years) of the country's surplus silver reserves, it leaves the amount undetermined. The suggestion, if carried into effect, was taken by some people to refer to the total issue of silver coin—in circulation, hoarded and held in reserve by the Government—by others to the last mentioned source only.

In the former case the surplus is estimated to reach about 680 million ounces, or nearly three years' world production of silver. In the latter event a reduction of the silver currency reserves to 25 crores was meant; then about 250 million ounces of silver (or one year's output) would come into account for disposal within 10 years.

Position of American Producers

At least 60 per cent. of the world's silver production is owned or controled by Americans who are, therefore, deeply concerned in the fate of the white metal. In September last the American Mining Congress, held in Denver, Colorado, petitioned the Secretary of Treasury, Washington, D. C. with regard to the eventual consequences of the provisions contained in the proposed Indian Currency Reform Act, as far as they would influence the interest of American mine owners.

Record of Business Done

	High	Low
$	2/5⅛	2/5⅛
U.S. $	60	59⅛
Yen	82⅛	81⅜
Gold bars	405.10	394.80
Silver, London	25	24⅜
Silver, New York ..	54	53⅞

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT

Changsha Boycott Against Piece Goods and Its Effect on Prices at Auctions

Dec. 24.

No improvement can be discerned in any department of the markets. Piece goods remain as formerly, and the renewed threat of a boycott at Changsha has had the effect of reducing prices for certain qualities.

Local cotton is stronger in sympathy with the recent price movement in America, and more purchasing is taking place. Prices of yarn remain steady, but business has not been of great moment.

Unsold stocks of tea are causing some disquietude, and the outlook for the next year is anything but bright. During the week silk and produce have been quiet.

Piece Goods

The position of piece goods is again difficult to summarize correctly, for while there was more interest displayed in the auctions during the earlier part of the week, with an improvement in clearances, the close brought to light other and less satisfactory features. There is still no inclination to engage in forward business, for while Home prices are slightly easier, they are still above market values here.

Among the auction goods which showed an improvement compared with preceding weeks may be mentioned Whites in particular. Renewed orders were in evidence from Korea, and as a consequence this class of goods recovered rather over half of what has been lost during the past three weeks.

The outstanding feature at the close of the auctions was a distinct indication that after many ■reats the boycott in Changsha is maturing. Changsha chops dropped about Tl. 1, there being a complete absence of demand, and it was also noticeable that the Hankow merchants showed much nervousness. As a consequence of this, Italians had to depend for support mainly on local demand. There were few orders from the north. Greys experienced a demand similar to that of last week, while conditions for Whites were more or less the same with the exception of Korean qualities.

Cotton, Yarn, Etc.

Chinese Cotton—Chinese cotton is stronger in sympathy with the advance which has taken place in American. Mills during the week have been purchasing small quantities of local grades, also a certain amount of Indian and American cotton. Shensi cotton is arriving in fair quantities from Hankow, and it is reported that there are about 28,000 bales unsold in Shanghai. Spot quotations are as follows:—Tungchow 29/30.75: Shanghai 27/29.50: Shensi 28.75/29.50: Ningpo 29.25. Yesterday morning closing quotations on the Exchange were as follows:—December 22.80: January 22.40: February 22.20: March 28.10: April 23.10: May 28.15. Business done 12,300 piculs.

Yarn—On the local Exchange prices of yarn have remained steady during the week. A holiday feeling seems to have affected deliveries, and after the activity of last week there is no mention of new business to any appreciable extent. Spot quotations are as follows:—10's 108/122: 12's 116/128: 16's 124/136: 20's 126/140. Yesterday morning's closing quotations on the Exchange were as follows:—December 126.40: January 126.30: February 127.90: March 128.90: April 129.50: May 129.90. The business done amounted to 4,000 bales.

American Cotton—New York quotations are up 40 points on the week, the latest rates being given as follows:—January 12.43: March 12.67: May 12.87: July 13.09: October 13.28: October 13.28: spot 13.10: highest January 12.45: lowest January 12.27. Liverpool quotations:—March 6.68: October 7.01: spot 6.69.

Tea

In black tea there has been no business this week. The world's production shows an increase of 50,000,000 lb. over last year, while Russian requirements have been 20,000,000 lb. less than last year, and in consequence stocks at the end of the season must be increased by 70,000,000 lb., as owing to the coal strike there has been no increase in consumption in England and there are no signs of an increase consumption in other countries. In consequence there appears to be nothing to prevent a serious slump. It ■ difficult to see who is going to buy the 100,000 packages of black tea still remaining in China.

Green Tea—The sudden appreciation in the franc has demoralized all the North African market, as holders of tea in francs must face very heavy losses. There is a stock of about 100,000 h/c in China, nearly all of inferior grades, and there is no demand at all.

The Coming Season—It seems more than probable that next season's crop will be very short indeed. As there is no demand in Shanghai the native banks will have to renew their advances to the tea hongs to carry their stock, and in consequence will be very unwilling to make further advances for the new crop. Even were they willing to do so, it is very unlikely that any tea hong will have courage in the present of the country to send money into the interior. Reports from the Keemun and Teenkai districts indicate that that part of the country is overrun by the remnants of Sun Chuan-fang's army, and that a considerable number of factories have been burned down. Tea men should now be returning to the tea districts to make their arrangements for the manufacture of next season's tea, but they are unable to do so, and in fact they are bringing their wives and families to Shanghai for safety. Charcoal has ■ be brought now and new boxes prepared, but none of this is being done. The probability of the country settling down being very slight in the opinion of these men, it ■ very likely that next season's shortage will be much more serious than anybody realizes at the moment.

Silk

During the week there has been nothing doing in any branch of the silk market owing to the absence of demand from the American or European consuming markets.

Japan again shows a weak and declining market.

Produce

Prices locally for untanned goatskins and raw weasel skins are very high and generally well above the parity of the Home markets.

Oil seeds are dead, and apart from the lack of supplies there is little demand apparent for sundry produce articles either from Europe or America.

DECEMBER SETTLEMENT

Difficulty in Stock Exchange Adjustment

Although the December settlement of the Stock Exchange, which fell on Tuesday, was one of the smallest which has been recorded for a considerable time past, great difficulty was experienced in connexion with it.

It was known some days ago that there would be difficulty in regard to the matter, but this was apparently increased by an eleventh-hour notice of further trouble. It is understood that certain accounts had been carried forward from the previous settlement, and over and above this, operations on the bear side during the past quarter seem to have accounted for the plight in which one or two brokers found themselves when it came ■ squaring up accounts.

So far as is known no large amounts are involved, and the general expectation yesterday afternoon was that ways and means would be found to carry the outstanding balances. It required until after 7 p.m. to assure it was that these arrangements had been carried through.

While rubber has been the principal medium of speculative transactions during the past quarter, it is stated that practically all classes of shares have been dealt in.

THE CHINA STOCK AND SHARE HANDBOOK

REVIEWED BY C. A. ASHLEY

The 1926 edition of this extremely useful book of reference has made its appearance. Its contents are by no means limited by its name, for, in addition to the particulars it gives of many of the banks, insurance, investment, industrial and rubber companies operating in China, it contains sections dealing with the Stock Exchange, statistics of the exchange variations and rubber production, and British and American Company Law. The book is excellently produced by the "North-China Daily News & Herald."

The compiler of such a book (in this case Mr. C. R. Maguire) is faced with the difficulty that he has necessarily to rely on companies for a great deal of his information, and that it is not easy to keep parts of the book up to date and accurate.

The summaries of companies contain a few obvious instances where general particulars have been copied from previous records without alteration, so that deceased and retired gentlemen are mentioned as legal advisers, auditors and directors; but the comparative figures, showing profits, reserves, dividends, highest and lowest share quotations, etc., for a period of years, and including the latest available figures, appear to have been carefully compiled, and should be most useful.

The section dealing with the rubber industry contains a paragraph urging investors to study the subject before buying shares in this market, and some very interesting information and statistics are supplied as a basis for such study. It is probable, however, that the majority of those interested in rubber shares in Shanghai, Hongkong, and elsewhere in China, will continue to be interested more as speculators than as investors, and their profits or losses will depend as much on the folly or wisdom of other speculators ■ on the real merits of the shares concerned.

The extracts from the Companies Ordinances and the China Trade Act give the chief points in these very concisely. It would not, however, be unreasonable to expect that every British company operating under the former and American company under the latter should be in actual possession of copies of them. Why the extracts from the Companies should be headed and indexed under "The King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council" is not immediately obvious.

At different points in the book there are certain *obiter dicta* of the compiler or his assistants to which exception might be taken, particularly as they are expressed in a somewhat authoritative manner. On page 34 it is laid down for companies that sums equivalent to the reserves for depreciation should be invested in such a way as to be readily available for meeting the cost of substitution. "It is quite illegitimate, though a common error, to use available funds of this kind for the purpose of building additional works or factories." Why should a company issue new capital for extensions if it can safely use funds already at its disposal for extensions? By using these funds it can earn a higher percentage of profit for distribution to shareholders, and raise new capital for replacements when necessary. If soundly run it should be easier for it to raise the capital at this point, while less would probably be needed.

The explanations of various Stock Exchange and general commercial terms (on the basis of English Law) are well prepared and comprehensive, but exception must also be taken to some of these. It is, for instance, no business of an auditor "to get out a balance sheet—"; his duties and rights are not well defined here. In dealing with dividends it should have been made clear that directors usually have power to declare interim dividends, but that no final dividend can be declared until recommended by the directors and passed at a general meeting of the company. The powers of shareholders in respect of dividends do not seem to be generally known.

The remarks about Joint Stock Companies were possibly true prior to the year 1844, but have no relation to the present time, and little useful or accurate information is given under the important headings of "Private Company" and "Public Company."

The China Stock and Share Handbook is now on sale at $6, and it will deservedly find its place with the Hong List and other books of easy reference in most business offices in Shanghai and the other ports of China.

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LAW REPORTS

INQUIRY INTO LOSS OF LIENSHING

Investigation by Naval Court: An Altered Course: Chinese Who Refused to Help Themselves: Captain Simpson Held Blameless but 2nd Officer's Ticket Suspended

The Naval Court of Inquiry summoned under the provisions of Section 480 of the Merchant Shipping Act to inquiry into the sinking of the Indo-China S. N. Co's. str. Lienshing sat in H. M. Supreme Court on Tuesday. The Court consisted of Capt. D. B. Le Mottée, of H. M. S. Despatch (President), Lieut.-Commander F. E. Chevallier, D.S.C., Mr. H. A. F. B. Archer, O.B.E. (H. M. Vice-Consul), Capt. E. Monkman, Master of the str. Soochow, and Capt. W. G. Lalor, Master of the str. Wanliu. Mr. A. C. Holborow appeared for Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., agents for the I. C. S. N. Co., Mr. Ranald G. McDonald for Capt. J. V. Simpson, Master of the Lienshing, and Mr. J. R. Jones for Mr. J. W. McCabe, the Second Officer.

Among those present in court representing the owners were Mr. E. D. F. Beith, senior partner in Shanghai of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. (general managers of the Indo-China S. N. Co.); Mr. E. F. Aucott, shipping manager; Commander P. H. Rolfe, R.N.R., the company's senior marine superintendent in Hongkong, and Captain Gibb, assistant marine superintendent in Shanghai.

The Captain's Evidence

Capt. Simpson gave evidence that he had been at sea for 30 years and a Master for 7½ years. He had been with Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., for 13½ years and had commanded the Lienshing since she was built in May, 1924. He had been on the Shanghai-Tientsin trip for a number of years and had done it 66 times in the Lienshing. He never had experienced a serious accident before. The Second Officer had been in the Lienshing five months and had done ten or twelve voyages to Tientsin and back.

On this particular trip Weihaiwei was their last port of call and they left there at 3.50 p.m. on the 10th instant. Shaweishan Light was raised at five minutes past midnight on the 12th instant and a course was set to pass it about ten miles off. At 2 a.m. a position was obtained off Shaweishan, about 13 miles out. Witness stayed on the bridge till about 2.15 a.m. and set a course S. 6 E. by the compass and S. 10 E. true. The North Saddles Light was slightly on the port bow. He told the Second Officer to steer the course, to take bearings every quarter of an hour and not to go any closer to the Amherst rock than three miles. He was to call witness at 3 o'clock. Five miles allowance was made for the tide setting to the westward. It was two hours before high water. He expected to be due east of the rock about 1½ hours later, as they were making about 11½ knots. It was a liberal allowance for the set. The tide set at about three knots and five miles was sufficient for a run of 1½ hours. Three miles was ample margin for going round the rock.

Dark But Clear

He had every confidence in the Second Officer. The night was very dark but clear and lights could be seen quite plainly. Witness went below and was called at 3 a.m., finding then that the ship was 10 or 11 miles away from her position at 2 a.m. 9 or 10 miles from the rock. The course had been altered, the Second Mate reporting that he had not experienced any set to speak of. Fixes were made at 3.18 and 3.30 and the course then was quite safe, as they were about three miles off. Another fix was taken at 3.40 which did not fit in with the others. They were further to the west and witness went to take bearings personally. Before he had time to lay off any bearings on the chart, the Second Mate reported rocks on the port bow. Witness put the helm hard apart, which was the only possible thing to do, but as the ship was swinging she struck the rocks abaft the No. 1 bulkhead, near the No. 2 hold. He immediately stopped the engines and ordered all hands on deck.

A wireless call was sent for assistance and within a few minutes the operator reported that he had received replies from the Shanghai station, which stated that the signal had been broadcast and the Colorado and a pilot boat were coming up. Flares and rockets were sent up until the end.

The next thing was to assemble the passengers and get them away in the lifeboats. Everything was quite orderly and there was no panic. The ship foundered about an hour later. There was a slight easterly swell at the time. The boats all were successfully lowered except one which fouled a lifeline. Rafts also were lowered and made fast to the ship to take up people who might not get into the boats.

The Cause of the Loss of Life

Witness said that a number of Chinese passengers left the boats and scrambled back on to the ship, thinking that the after part would remain above water and that they would be able to keep dry. They did this against orders, whereas if they had remained in the boats there would not have been any loss of life. There had been regular lifeboat drill. There were 27 or 28 foreign passengers and about 130 or 140 Chinese. The ship was amply equipped with life-saving apparatus and it was all in very good order, including the boats and rafts. Lifebelts were easily accessible to all and he showed many where they were. As far as he could see every passenger had one.

Answering the President, witness said he was surprised when he found the course had been altered, but he did not again alter it, because the fixes that had been made suggested that the course they were on was perfectly safe. When the boats were lowered they were filled indiscriminately with people, no distinction between foreigners or Chinese. The Chinese who came back tried to secure their luggage and the officers did their best to persuade them to return to the boats, as luggage could not be taken. Some Chinese actually were lowered back to the boats by ropes. In many cases the Chinese did not give any assistance in the attempt to save their lives.

The last people on the ship were himself, Capt. Kozeradsky (a passenger) and the Third Mate.

In reply to Mr. McDonald witness said that when he was in the water he came across a Chinese and held him up but the man eventually died from exposure. Witness was in the water for half an hour. Several people died, as it was a bitterly cold night. He believed about 20 or 30 died. Twelve were members of the crew. The crew all behaved very well.

The Second Officer's Evidence

Mr. John William McCabe, the Second Officer, said he had been at sea for 12 years and 4½ years on the China Coast. He had been with the company 2½ years. He held a First Mate's certificate, obtained in April, 1924. During the war he served for three years with minesweepers and was in the operations at Zeebrugge.

Witness corroborated the instructions said to have been given to him by Capt. Simpson. Subsequently he took fixes by the Shaweishan, North Saddles and Gutzlaff Lights and he altered the course in order to pass three miles from the Amherst Rocks. After the captain returned to the bridge witness twice took bearings which did not arouse any suspicions, but when at 3.40 a.m. he took another bearing the captain did not seem quite satisfied and went to the standard compass to check it. While the captain was taking the bearing witness saw the Amherst Rock slightly on the port bow, he informed the captain and the course immediately was altered, the helm being put hard apart. The ship struck a minute later.

Witness said that his subsequent work was to superintend the lowering of the boats. Perfect order was obtained and nothing went wrong except that the lifeline of one of the boats jammed between the davit and the block, so that the boat tilted when it reached the water. The falls were cut with a hatchet but before that could be done the boat had filled. Buckets were thrown down and if the Chinese only had used them to bale the boat she would not have filled. Ropes also were thrown over so that some of the men could be hauled up.

Unhelpful Chinese Passengers

Witness also corroborated the captain's statement that a number of Chinese returned to the ship and would not again leave it, making endeavours to save their luggage. He received every assistance from the Chinese crew but the other Chinese would not do anything.

A Chinese quartermaster who was at the wheel verified the course.

Capt. Simpson, recalled, said that between the standard and steering compasses there was a slight variation on a southerly or southeasterly course, but none on the southwest. The difference was three or four degrees on the southerly.

Mr. George Graham Patterson, Chief Engineer, said he was in his bunk at the time of the accident. He immediately went to the engine-room and found everything there in order, even to the entering of the time the engines were stopped. He made the required inspections and then, in response to the captain's orders, saw that the engine-room and stokehold were cleared. Previously the boilers were pumped full in order to keep the lights going and have steam up if it should be required. Witness then did what he could to assist on deck. He also spoke of the difficulty of getting the Chinese to go into the boats. He did not see anyone without a lifebelt.

Capt. Walter Henry Smith, of the str. Colorado, who was the first to answer the wireless call, detailed the rescue work and said that, so far as he could see, everything possible had been done and was being done to save life.

Capt. John Joseph Kozeradsky, of the str. Hua An, a passenger on the Lienshing, said that after the accident he was ordered into a boat, but, being of the same profession, he offered to stand by the captain and thereafter did what he could to assist, though it was not necessary, as such perfect order was maintained. Everyone he saw had a lifebelt.

The Master's Responsibility

Capt. William Gibb, acting Marine Superintendent, of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., said that the ship was fully equipped with all the requisite lifesaving apparatus according to the Board of Trade standard. The company's instructions to its officers were to use the utmost caution in navigation and to take all steps to preserve life in case of necessity.

The President—Are there any regulations laid down respecting the presence of the Master on the bridge?—The Master is entirely responsible for the management of his vessel.

There is no specific regulation as to the Master being on the bridge in pilotage waters?—There is no express regulation except that the Master is entirely responsible for the navigation of his vessel.

Capt. Simpson, again recalled, said that it was not his intention to pass the Amherst Ricks three miles exactly, but not less. Had the set of the tide been stronger it probably would have been necessary to haul the ship out to make the course. At that time he saw no reason to expect his instructions might be misinterpreted.

This concluded the evidence and the Court adjourned.

THE COURT'S DECISION

The Court on Wednesday first recalled Capt. Simpson, Master of the Lienshing, who said that he personally took the chart and the log-book from the bridge and placed them in the ship's despatch-box, which was sent away in the No. 2 life-boat, the latter being in charge of Mr. Porter, the Chief Officer. Witness did not know definitely what happened to it after that, but he understood it was brought to Shanghai by the str. Colorado.

Second Mate "Rattled"

Witness also explained in greater detail everything that happened after he returned to the bridge on the night of the disaster. Coming to the times when he grew suspicious about the fixes, witness said that the Second Mate appeared to be "somewhat rattled" when things did not fit in and accordingly witness went to check them themself. Before he left the bridge he did not exactly tell the Second Mate that he proposed to hold on along the same course until 3.30. a.m. The ship first struck on a ledge, then swung round and slid off. When they were abandoning ship, witness, other officers and Capt. Kozeradsky inspected all the quarters and made sure that no-one was left below. All the Chinese had come on to the upper deck long before that.

When witness returned to the bridge before the accident and found she was on a different course to what he had expected, he did not at the time think there was an element of danger. The night was very fine and clear and the tide appeared to be quite weak. He would not himself have altered the course because he had reckoned—and he noted it beforehand on the chart—that they would be abreast of the rocks at 3.30 a.m. That note had been rubbed out. He intended to alter the course after that. When he looked at the chain of fixes, the course appeared to be quite safe, so he did not haul the ship back to her course.

The Chart and Log

Mr. E. J. A. Porter, the Chief Officer, said that the despatch-box was not locked. He took it on to the Colorado and on arrival in Shanghai handed it to the captain of the Luenho, as the company's offices then were closed. He did not know what happened to it after that.

Capt. W. Gibb, the company's acting marine superintendent, recalled, said that, so far as he recollected, the chart was on his desk when he returned from inspecting the wreck. He could not remember definitely whether any person handed it to him. He had been asked to give an opinion as to the cause of the accident, so he transferred the marks on the chart to his own chart, so that he could study the course. He did not make any marks on the ship's chart, nor any erasures. Capt. Simpson subsequently had the chart for a little while that he could write his report, and witness also went over the positions with the Second Officer. Otherwise the chart remained in his custody until it was brought into Court.

Mr. McCabe, the Second Officer, recalled, said that when he altered the course, he gave the helmsman the verbal order, "Port," and then steadied the ship on her new course. He steadied her from the standard compass on S. 40 W.

Obvious Mistakes

The President—It is obvious considerable mistakes must have been made in your earlier fixes, because it would be impossible for the ship to set so far out in the time. Do you admit there must be discrepancies in your earlier fixes?—No, I do not. I cannot offer any correct explanation, unless there was something abnormal. Witness said that he saw the chart with Capt. Gibb in his office and later with Capt. Simpson.

Capt. Simpson, again recalled, said that he was not of the opinion that there was anything abnormal in the set between 3 and 4 a.m. The ship struck at 4 a.m. and he estimated the direction and force of the tide then as about northwest and perhaps one mile an hour.

The Court retired to consider their finding and when they returned, the President, after a brief review of the evidence, announced their decision as follows:—

The Court's Finding

1.—That too much reliance was placed by the Second Mate on the 3 o'clock fix on which he altered course.

2.—That the Second Mate, on his own evidence, altered course to pass three miles off Amherst Rocks, without allowing for the northwest set.

3.—That the Second Mate altered course at 3 o'clock as he thought to S. 36 W. true, whereas in actual fact the course steered was S. 46 W. true.

4.—That the fixes obtained by the Second Mate were consistently in error.

5.—That had the 3.40 position as laid down on the chart been correct, with the ship steering S. 46 W. true, 11½ Knots, the ship would have cleared the Amherst Rocks.

6.—That the fix taken by the Master's orders immediately after the 3.40 position had been obtained, but which fix was not completed, was probably correct.

7.—That the Second Mate misinterpreted the Master's orders given him at 2.15 and should not have altered course, but, having done so, should have complied with standing orders and reported same to the Master at 3 o'clock.

8.—That no suspicion of danger was aroused in the mind of the Master until the 3.40 fix was plotted and showed an abnormal set to the westward, when he ordered further cross-bearings to be taken. That the suspicions aroused in the mind of the Master as to the doubtful position and safety of the ship were not confirmed in sufficient time for him to act.

9.—The life-saving apparatus was strictly in accordance with the Board of Trade requirements and there was ample accommodation for abandoning ship.

Every Effort to Save Life

10.—Subsequent to the stranding of the ship adequate and seamanlike steps and precautions were taken by the Master, ably assisted by the officers and crew of the ship, and by Capt. Kozeradsky, one of the passengers. Everything possible was done to save life, but unfortunately 12 members of the Chinese crew and 24 Chinese passengers lost their lives owing to the fouling of the after falls of No. 6 lifeboat causing the boat to swamp, and the failure of the Chinese passengers to obey the orders of the Master and officers to abandon ship. The Court records its sympathy with the relatives of the deceased.

11.—That every assistance was rendered by the Master and officers of the steamers Colorado, Hainfung and the pilot boat, who materially assisted in the saving of life.

12.—In the opinion of the Court the Amherst Rock constitutes a serious danger to ships approaching the Yangtze, more especially in low visibility when the existing lights become obscured, but even in conditions of good visibility the lights by which ships can fix their position are at great distances and thereby admit of small error in observation, leading to big errors in position. It would be of immense value to mariners if improved lighting could be established and the Court recommends that the Chinese Maritime Customs should be approached on the subject.

The Master Absolved

13.—That the Court sees no ground for blaming the conduct of the Master.

14.—That the Court finds the Second Mate to blame in that he (1) altered the course of the ship contrary to the standing orders of the Master: (2) did negligently allow the ship to be steered on an unsafe course: (3) that his fixes plotted on the chart were consistently in error, thereby lending the Master into a false sense of security which directly caused the stranding and loss of the ship.

15.—The Court, in pursurance of the powers vested in it by Section 470 (1) (a) of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894, therefore orders that a copy of the report and statement of the case upon which the investigation was ordered having been furnished to John William McCabe before the commencement of the investigation, his certificate as First Mate steamship, No. 4251, issued by the Governor of Hongkong and dated April 24, 1924, be, for the wrongful act and defaults aforesaid, suspended for the period of twelve calendar months from this date. The Court will recommend that he be granted a certificate as Second Mate Steamship during the period of suspension of the certificate as First Mate Steamship.

The expenses of the Court fixed at £11/18/0 are approved.

Chinese Congratulated

After the reading of the decision, Mr. Archer addressed several of the Chinese members of the crew who were in Court, telling them that they behaved splendidly in very trying circumstances and did everything that was expected of them. The Court very much appreciated their fine behaviour and were extremely sorry that some of their comrades should have lost their lives whilst doing their duty.

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H. M. SUPREME COURT

DOHSE v. SPENSER

In H. M. Supreme Court, before his Honour Judge Grain on Monday, L. M. J. Dohse, a German, brought a suit against William Henry Spenser for the recovery of $1,000 damages in respect of the publication of an alleged libel.

Mr. Tycho Wing represented the plaintiff, whilst the defendant conducted his own case.

Mr. Wing explained to the Judge that in his defence Spenser made no denial of publication of the libel, nor did he deny its text. The defence appeared to be one simply of justification. Therefore, with the consent of the Court, he would read the alleged libel and leave defendant to prove it.

The Judge agreeing, Mr. Wing then read the alleged libel, which consisted of a very lengthy letter addressed by Spenser to plaintiff's employer in Germany on October 19 of this year. The letter alleged that Dohse, whilst a married man, had seduced defendant's wife before defendant married her, and had had an illegal operation conducted upon the girl subsequently. She was then, according to the letter, 17 years of age. When defendant married her he knew nothing of this, but she confessed to him and he ultimately forgave her. The letter went on to say that they lived happily for six years and had four children, until, in the middle of this year, Dohse re-appeared on the scene and again seduced defendant's wife, taking her and the four children, until, in the middle of refusing to allow defendant to have them back. The letter wound up by stating that Spenser intended instituting criminal proceedings in the Mixed Court unless Dohse was immediately sent back to Germany.

An Adjournment Refused

Defendant asked for an adjournment to engage a lawyer, but His Lordship pointed out that when pleadings were applied for, the Judge warned him that he was entering a very technical defence, and then advised him to employ legal assistance. He had had ample time to do so, and also to call any evidence he wished. It was now up to him to prove the statements which he had made. There could be no adjournment.

Spenser then went into the witness box. He stated that the day he married his wife they had "a sort of a tiff" in the course of which she made a certain confession relation to Dohse. As a result of that he did not live with her as a husband for six months.

Defendant Cross-Examined

Cross-examined by Mr. Wing, Spenser denied that his wife had to leave their house on a number of occasions because of his cruelty to her. He admitted that on one occasion he struck her in the face with his open palm, but said he never did so with the closed fist. He "spanked" her with a slipper on another occasion, but failed to recall beating her with a stick or threatening to shoot her with a revolver. He wrote the letter which formed the basis of the suit, not with the object of harming Dohse, but to protect Dohse's employers from the scandal which would ensue on court proceedings in connexion with the case.

Spenser then asked permission to *sub-poena* his wife and other witnesses.

Asked by the Judge whether he had any objection to this, Mr. Wing said he had not, provided an interlocutory injunction was granted restraining Spenser from repeating the libel, and also restraining him from proceeding further with the action in the Mixed Court until the termination of this particular case.

An injunction to this effect was made, and the case was adjourned till January 4, 1927.

LUCAN v. LUCAN

In H. M. Supreme Court on Tuesday, before Judge Grain, Mrs. E. E. Lucan sought to obtain dissolution of her marriage with Thomas R. Lucan, a Merchant Service officer, formerly of Shanghai, on the grounds of cruelty and misconduct. Mr. A.Y. Ting appeared for petitioner, respondent failing to put in an appearance.

In the petition it was stated that the marriage took place on May 22, 1914. The document then went on to detail the circumstances of respondent's misconduct and enumerated instances of his brutality towards petitioner. It alleged that Lucan drank very heavily and at times suffered from *delirium tremens*. The wife had sent her husband away from Shanghai to other ports where he was not known in order to give him a fresh start, but he had invariably returned and lived on her earnings. There had been several "scenes" during these returns, and petitioner felt that her only course was to sue for divorce.

The Judge pointed out that the petition offered no proof that Lucan was domiciled in China, as demanded by British Law as applied to extraterritorial areas. There seemed no doubt that petitioner had been very badly treated by her husband, and fully deserved sympathy, but domicile must be proved. His Lordship suggested that petitioner apply to the Court for a judicial separation, which it was in his power to grant on the evidence. He had no doubt that if divorce proceedings were started in an English court petitioner would be granted her decree.

The petition was accordingly dismissed, and a judicial separation will probably be applied for in due course.

H. M. POLICE COURT

REX v. DASUNDRA SINGH AND TELLECK SINGH

An echo of the Malwa-Majha Sikh troubles was heard in H. M. Police Court, before Mr. G. W. King on Tuesday, when Dasundra Singh and Telleck Singh were found guilty of assaulting Ishart Singh, a watchman employed by the "Shanghai Times," Mr. Tycho Wing represented the complainant.

Ishart Singh's story was that on the night of December ■ the two men came to his quarters at the "Shanghai Times," and while Telleck Singh held the door closed against possible interruption, Dasundra Singh threw him to the ground, and with his knee in complainant's chest beat him with an iron bar. He managed to blow a police whistle, and a Chinese constable came ■ the scene and arrested Dasundra. The other man escaped. Ishart Singh said the reason he was assaulted was because he refused to pay a contribution of $20 ■ the fees for legal expenses ■ connexion with the recent Malwa-Majha dispute. Both he and the two defendants were Majhas, but he refused to implicate himself in the affair at all.

Telleck Singh pleaded an alibi, and brought three witnesses who stated that he was elsewhere at the time. He added that he and the complainant came from the same village in India and an enmity at home was responsible for this story. Dasundra Singh made a complete denial.

Commenting that in this case, as was usual in the type of case, there had been a good deal of lying on one side or the other, Magistrate added that he believed complainant's story and disbelieved the stories of the other two men. Dasundra Singh would be fined $7 with the alternative of seven days, imprisonment and Telleck Singh $5 with the alternative of seven days.

LAST Friday morning in H. M. Police Court Mr. G. W. King found E. Judah guilty of having used a motor car without first obtaining a licence from the Shanghai Municipal Council and was fined $5. In the same Court Mr. J. E. McLenan was found guilty of having ranked his motor car on Szechuen Road for an extended period and was fined $2.

S. A. Judah, of 20 Jinkee Road was fined $3 in H.B.M. Police Court on Monday morning for breaking traffic regulations on Nanking Road and for not being able to produce a license when arrested.

IN H. B. M. Police Court on Monday James McMann was charged with damaging a plate glass window on the night of December 18 by throwing a stone into the premises of a music store at 3628 Seward Road by the proprietor, A. A. Suchochleb, who further alleged damage to a musical instrument in the window, making a total amount of $1[illegible]. Accused, who pleaded guilty, said that he had deliberately thrown the stone while perfectly sober because he had no shelter for the night. Police Constable P. C. Yablousky, who arrested the accused on the night in question, appeared as a witness. Judgment of two months imprisonment and hard labour, was passed.

THE case of Harold Russel Bladon, charged with an attempt to obtain money from Zung Je Ding by threats, on December 16 at 256 Haining Road, came up in H.B.M. Police Court on Monday morning. Mr. G. W. King, O.B.E., remanded the accused into police custody and refused bail, pending the hearing set for 10 a.m. Thursday when the accused will be given opportunity to produce a lawyer for his defence.

U. S. COURT FOR CHINA

CITIZEN TRUST & SAVINGS BANK (CHICAGO) v. HOYT

An interesting judgment was rendered on Wednesday by Judge M. D. Purdy in the U. S. Court for China in favour of the Citizens Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago and against Mr. Lansing W. Hoyt of Shanghai, and which involved the payment of a promissory note executed contemporneously with a settlement agreement in Chicago. The judgment rendered yesterday overrules a judgment in the same case rendered in Mr. Hoyt's favour on January 5, 1926. Messrs. Chalaire and Franklin represented the Citizens Trust and Savings Bank, the successful plaintiff, and Messrs. Schuhl and Schoenfeld appeared for the defendant, Mr. Hoyt.

The facts of the dispute between the Chicago Bank and Mr. Hoyt appearing in the opinion indicate that the parties entered into an agreement on December 27, 1923 ■ Chicago whereby Mr. Hoyt acknowledged being indebted ■ the Bank in the sum of U.S.$9,477.78. The agreement provided for the payment of U.S.$7,350 of the larger amount in instalments over a period of three years, the balance U.S.$2,127.78 to be remitted provided each of the instalment payments were made by Mr. Hoyt as they became due. The amount of U.S.$2,127,78 was represented by a demand promissory note executed by Mr. Hoyt in favour of the Bank. It was upon that note that the suit in question was brought, the Bank claiming that Mr. Hoyt had failed to pay one of the instalments of U.S.$750, due under the contract, when it became due on January 1, 1926.

According to the opinion of Judge Purdy the instalment which became due on January 1, 1925, was actually paid by Mr. Hoyt to Messrs. Chalaire and Franklin, attorneys for the Bank, in the latter part of June, 1925, after demand had been made for the payment of the larger note for U.S.$2,128.78

A Claim of Estoppel

At the new trial of the action, which took place on November 10 and 11, counsel for Mr. Hoyt urged that the Bank was estopped to claim on the note in question because its attorneys here had accepted the delayed payment which had become due in January, 1925. Referring to that point the Court in its opinion said.:

"It is further claimed by the defendant that when the plaintiff, through its attorneys Messrs. Chalaire and Franklin, on June 29, 1925, at Shanghai, China, accepted $750 in payment of the January 1, 1925, instalment, together with interest thereon, that such acceptance should be held to operate as an estoppel. The facts, with reference to that matter, are these: On June 19, 1925, Messrs. Chalaire and Franklin wrote to the defendant on behalf of the plaintiffs, demanding payment on defendant's note for 2,127.78 Gold, with interest thereon at the rate of 7 per cent. from December 27, 1923, and also demanded payment of the $750.00 note which became due on the January 1, 1925. Thereafter, on June 29, 1925, Messrs. Schuhl and Schoenfeld, defendant's counsel in Shanghai, wrote a letter to Chalaire and Franklin, stating among other things, that the defendant was willing to carry out the terms of the original contract, and that Schuh and Schoenfeld were prepared to pay immediately the sum of $750 due on January 1, 1925, with all accrued interest, and also $750 due July 1, 'on the distinct understanding that delay in making the payment due on January 1, which delay was largely caused by the action of your client in inviting negotiations for a settlement, shall in no wise jeopardise our right to have the note for $2127.78 returned to us on January 1, 1927, without any additional payments being made thereon'. On the same day, to-wit, June 29, 1925, Messrs. Chalaire and Franklin replied as follows:

'Your letter of even date is before us. As the writer has already explained to Mr. Hoyt, the situation is one over which we have no control. We have submitted the offer of settlement made by Mr. Hoyt to the Bank in Chicago, which has indicated its lack of interest therein and has instructed us to collect the full amount now due, which is, in addition ■ the $750 which became due on January 1, the sum of U.S. $2,127.78, for which we have recently made demand.' (Defendant's Ex. '3').

Claim Rejected

Notwithstanding the receipt of that letter, and in face of its clear assertion that the plaintiff was insisting upon the payment of $750 and interest, together with the payment of the note, amounting to $2127.78, the defendant upon the same day paid to Messrs. Chalaire and Franklin the January 1, 1925, payment of $750 and interest, and the July 1, 1925, payment of $750, which had not then become due. It is rather difficult to see how such a voluntary payment on the part of the defendant, after being told that the plaintiff intended to insist upon the payment of both notes, to-wit, the January, 1925, note and the demand note for $2127.78, operated to work an estoppel which would thereafter prevent the plaintiff from asserting its claim for payment upon the demand note. The claim of an estoppel must therefore be rejected."

After disposing of the question of estoppel the Court proceeded to a consideration of the question of law involving the proper construction and interpretation of the contract of December 27, 1923, in the following terms.

"It appears from the evidence in this case that the defendant failed to pay to the plaintiff the $750 with interest due on January 1, 1925, and that he did not make that payment until on or about the 29th day of June, 1925. The question arises, therefore, whether such failure amounted to a breach of this contract on the part of the defendant so as to entitle the plaintiff to be relieved from its agreement to surrender the $2127.78 demand note to the defendant upon the expiration of this contract, and to preclude plaintiff from maintaining this action on such demand note.

"Upon the first trial of this action, I held upon the authority of DeCamp v. Feay, 9 Am. Dec. 372, and the case of Beck and Pauli Lithographing Co. v. Colorado Milling and Elevator Co. 52 Fed. 700, that the provision in this contract for the making of these partial payments upon the days therein specified, and that its violation did not constitute a breach thereof. Upon a re-examination of these cases, and in the light of the authorities which I shall hereafter consider, I am forced to the conclusion that the principles which are enunciated and applied in those two cases, cannot be applied to the facts of the case here under consideration.

The Essence of Time

In the case of Beck and Pauli Lithographing Co. *v.* Colorado Milling and Elevator Co., *supra*, Circuit Judge Sanborn, after announcing the general principle governing the construction of contracts to the effect that stipulations as to the time of their performance are not necessarily of their essence unless it clearly appears in the given case, from the expressed stipulation in the contract or the nature of its subject-matter, said:

'In the application of this principle to the cases as they have arisen in the jurisdiction of the rules pertaining to delayed from it, and in the assignment of the various cases to the respective classes in which the stipulations as to the time of performance is or is not deemed of the essence of the contract, *the controlling consideration has been* and ought to be to so decide and classify the cases that *mutual penalty may not be inflicted* nor unreasonable damages recovered.'

"Tested by this rule, let us examine this contract for the purpose of ascertaining whether, if time be regarded as of its essence, an unjust penalty will be inflicted upon the defendant or unreasonable damages recovered. It is apparent that when this contract was entered into, the plaintiff voluntarily agreed to reduce defendant's total indebtedness to the bank in the amount of $2,127.78. This indebtedness was to be discharged by payments spread over a period of three years, aggregating $7,350.00, and in consideration of *such payments being made when they fell due*, plaintiff agreed to forgive and cancel the demand note for $2,127.78 upon the termination of the contract and return the same to the defendant, and in addition thereto, to rebate 2 per cent. interest on the $7,350. Defendant, therefore, had it within his power under this contract, if he fully performed the same, to reduce his acknowledged indebtedness of $9,477.78 in the sum of $2,127.78 with a rebate of 2 per cent. interest on the payments which he was required to make. Defendant failed to make the $750 payment on January 1, 1925, and the plaintiff now claims that it was then and there released from its obligation to return this demand note to the defendant or to rebate to him the 2 per cent interest on his notes aggregating $7,350 upon the termination of the contract.

"The question, therefore, arises as to whether this insistence upon the part of the plaintiff, that defendant pay this demand note for $2,127.78, is inflicting a penalty or imposing unreasonable damages. It seems to me quite clear that if the defendant is now required to pay that which he had admitted in this contract was due and owing to to plaintiff on December 27, 1923, Defendant as no one to blame but himself for the situation in which he is now placed. He agreed by this contract that he would make these payments on the days on which they became due and payable, and it was only upon such condition that he was to earn and receive back from the plaintiff his demand note for $2,127.78. In other words, defendant was given an opportunity to reduce his indebtedness to the plaintiff in the amount of this demand note by making several payments on the days on which they fell due, and plaintiff had the clear right to insist that if defendant failed to make such payments on the days specified, that then and in such case the plaintiff would not release or discharge the defendant from his obligation to pay the demand note with 7 per cent. interest. The very nature of the contract leaves no room for doubt but that such was the intention of the parties. It was the only way in which the defendant was to escape from liability to pay this demand note. Regarding this stipulation as to the time of payment as of the essence of this contract, inflicts no penalty upon the defendant because it does not require him to pay any more than he admitted that he owed the plaintiff, neither does it impose upon him damages of any sort for the reason that the plaintiff ■ getting only what was admittedly due it, and the defendant is being required to pay only that which he admitted that he owed to the plaintiff. It is true that the defendant loses his privilege and right under the contract to decrease his indebtedness to the plaintiff in a very substantial amount, but the loss to such right can only be attributed to defendant's own fault and negligence in failing to scrupulously and punctually observe his under takings whereby such right was to be secured to him."

Defendant's Own Fault

There follows thereafter in the opinion a discussion of the authorities supporting the judgment in favour of the Bank. The question of whether or not the Bank had waived its right to insist upon payment of the demand note by reason of certain compromise conversations which were alleged to have taken place in Chicago in December, 1924, is also discussed at some length in the opinion, and after discussing certain testimony given by Mr. Hoyt at the second trial of the action the Judge said: "The foregoing is the only testimony contained in this record upon which the conclusion of a waiver can be predicated, and there stands opposed to that testi-

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mony the clear, positive and repeated denials on the part of President Staver that any such understanding was had by the parties to this action. I am constrained, therefore, to find as a fact that the defendant has failed to establish his claim by a fair preponderance of the evidence, that the plaintiff waived its right to receive the $750.00 on the 1st day of January ,1925."

The opinion concludes with an order that the plaintiff bank recover judgment against the defendant in the sum of G$2809.57 together with its costs in the action.

MIXED COURT

H. & S. BANK v. HARRENDORF

In the Mixed Court last Friday before Messrs. Byvanck and Sung, additional evidence was presented in the now-famous Harrendorf case, when Mr. E. W. Stagg of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, told what he knew of the circumstances. Witness is leaving Shanghai shortly.

Before Mr. Stagg went into the box, Mr. E. H. Platt applied for a summons against E. Roehreke, in connexion with entries on some private documents. Mr. Sidney Young, acting for the H. & S. Bank, supported the application. The Court ordered that the summons should be issued.

Mr. C. S. Franklin appeared on behalf of Mr. J. B. Fonseca to watch the proceedings, while Mr. W. S. Fleming cross-examined witness later.

Mr. Stagg said that defendant had wished to increase his overdraft, but that this was refused, the other stating that he would then try elsewhere. The cargo immediately involved, witness continued, was invoiced as 800,000 cigarette tubes and fountain pens. Harrendorf, added witness, had paid previous bills, but those which came due at the end of July he did not pay. The Bank made arrangements for an extension of the bills for 30 days with the Hamburg principals, but it was not paid at the expiration of the prolonged credit, accused applying for additional credits. The Bank cabled to its Hamburg agents to collect on the drawers of the bills, but these were not paid as well.

Upon request, witness further stated that Harrendorf came to see the sub-manager of the H. & S. Bank about the actual contents of the 16 cases on the invoice. Arrangements were not completed, and the cargo was opened. In one case cigarette holders were found, while in the others nothing but cheap glass tumblers were to be seen. In all about 500 cases had been consigned to accused. The total unsettled amount amounted to £61,000, while the goods proved to be worth 1,500. Had the full duty been collected by the Customs, according to the invoice slips, it would have amounted to more than the approximate value.

Mr. Stagg's evidence having been concluded, the hearing was remanded for a future date.

JACOB v. GAZAL, et al.

In the Mixed Court last Friday before Messrs. Whitamore and Zau, Saul Raymond Gazal, Miss Liza and Mrs. Moselle Gazal were charged with having on November 15 assaulted Ezekiel Jacob, who is the Rabbi of the Jewish Communal Association. At the conclusion of a lengthy hearing in which personal animosities repeatedly cropped up, the three accused were ordered by the Court to sign a personal bond to be of good behaviour for one year.

Mr. M. B. Brown, appearing for complainant, outlined the case saying that his client, as Rabbi of the Communal Association, was attacked in Dixwell Road about 4 o'clock on November 15. It seemed to him that accused, being Jews, had a personal spite against their Rabbi. Fortunately P.S. White heard complainant's police whistle and saved Mr. Jacobs from further trouble.

Complainant said he left a house in Dixwell Road and was assaulted by accused. He ran about 100 yards, blowing the police whistle all the while. He was not severely beaten, but, "I got a headache afterwards." The trouble arose over slaughtered meat, witness adding that he had charge of this operation. The male accused, however, said he "would kill me instead of the animals." Witness closed his evidence by saying that the male accused had been bound over in the British Court on $50 bail.

Insulted His Wife

Police Sgt. White—I heard the police whistle, and went to the spot. The women were chasing him and the husband of the second accused, Mrs. Liza Gazal, said that complainant had insulted his wife.

Miss Hild Elias said that she saw the whole party running and that David Saul had struck complainant. David Saul, she added, is the son of the first and second accused and husband of third accused. After several other witnesses had given evidence, complainant's counsel announced that his case was closed.

Saul Raymond Gazal—I was not present—if they say they saw me, I will leave the matter in the hands of God. I have known complainant for five years and have been friendly with him. I look after deceased Jews, wash them and prepare them for burial.....I asked the Jewish Communal Association for a job for my sons in the slaughter house.

Second accused said that she came from Hongkew Park and saw complainant, who was very abusive. She remonstrated, after which he struck her. Complainant called her "son of a pig" in Hindustani.

After a further airing had been given to the brawl, the Court put accused under the personal bond.

FABRICATED REVOLUTIONARY SEALS

The defence Commissioner of the Woosung and Shanghai Area, through his representative, complained at the Mixed Court on Monday against two Chinese, alleging that they were concerned in the making of counterfeit and illegal revolutionary chops, and asked that they be handed over to the Chinese Court. Mr. Maitland prosecuted for the police while Mr. R. B. Chen appeared for the accused. Messrs. Martin and Kuan heard the evidence.

Mr. Maitland—This is an application to have accused transferred to the jurisdiction of the Chinese Procurator. They are alleged to have, the one, acted as agent for the purchase of, and the other as the maker of six illegal chops carrying the following inscriptions, "Seal of the Commander of the Kiangsu Safety Corps" and "Chief Field Officer of the Kiangsu Protectionary Corps." I would ask the Court to order them handed over.

Mr. Chen then asked for remand until Friday, saying that he was engaged in the case only a few hours before.

Det. Sub-Inspr. Robertson—A representative of the Chinese authorities came to the Criminal Investigation Department on Sunday morning and explained that these chops were being made in Morriss Village and were to be used by the Revolutionary Army against the Chinese in power here. It was ascertained that the shop was situated at 902 Taku Road. I went there and saw the second accused, who admitted that he was the proprietor and that he had made the chops purporting to be for the Kiangsu Army. He was to be paid $3.75 for the six chops which had been ordered on Saturday. For some reason the purchaser said that the wording was wrong and would have to be changed, which he did and the purchaser thought that he might return late in the day to buy some red ink. I placed a Chinese detective on duty there and he arrested the other one during the afternoon.

The Court ordered that they be handed over to the representative present, who had a despatch warrant.

COMPLAINANT'S BAD LUCK

To appear as complainant in the Mixed Court and then to be arrested and sent to Pootung on charges of armed robbery was the unlucky fate of a Chinese who had acted as an agent for the police recently. Messrs. Martin and Sung were on the Bench and Det.-Sgt. Williamson prosecuted.

It will be recalled, Sgt. Williamson told the Court, that accused were arrested a week ago. The case has been remanded for two weeks, but he brought it up now because of the request of the Chinese authorities in wanting complainant. He preferred not to state all the details concerning complainant until after the first case was settled. Mr. Bucknell instructed him to proceed.

The Special Branch, he went on to say, had been informed of a gang which uttered counterfeit notes from a room in a lodging house. One of his staff on the day in question got the house coolie (technically complainant) to make the purchases and gave him $170. At the time the utterer had only $600 in notes. The rascals evolved a scheme and jumped on the coolie to rob him.

Detectives stationed in the house rushed in, arrested three or four and from them ascertained the whereabouts of the others. The Court sentenced five to six months' imprisonment, the others to smaller terms.

Complainant, who asserted that he was innocent of the crime for which he was wanted, was given in custody to an officer from Pootung.

MERCHANT'S SHIPS CHEQUES

Seventeen complainants appeared at the Mixed Court on Tuesday against the proprietor of a merchandise shop, whom the police allege issued false cheques for purchases and who later attempted to convert the goods and get away. Messrs. Bucknell and Sung heard the evidence and remanded the case for a week. Det.-Sgt. Bebenin, attached to Central station, prosecuted for the police.

On October 30, Sgt. Bebenin told the Court, the proprietor opened a shop at 203 Hankow Road, a business seemingly pretentious and immediately bought large quantities of goods on credit, paying for them with cheques on the Chung Hua Commercial and Savings Bank, Ltd., of Shanghai. All cheques were made payable on December 2. In addition to those known already, the officer thought that more complainants would make an appearance as other bills were found among the papers in the office.

On Sunday night most merchandise was removed through the ceiling and taken to a lodging house. The appearance of the shop was disguised on Monday, most of the other boxes being kept closed. When he opened them, he found them empty.

A party of police, the officer went on to say, raided the lodging house on Monday night and found four assistants (they were in the dock) and the merchandise, which was attached. The proprietor was not found.

The latter had proposed on Sunday to go into voluntary liquidation, wishing to settle for 60 per cent., but it appears that he had difficulty in securing a lawyer.

The proprietor had, however, come to the Mixed Court on Tuesday morning to make arrangements for a liquidation, with the result that he was arrested, bail being fixed in the sum of Tls. 2,000, shop or cash security. The Court allowed bail for the assistants at Tls. 500.

GOLOVINA v. RUSSO-ASIATIC BANK

A motion in the action of A.A. Golovina against the Russo-Asiatic Bank heard in the Mixed Court about a month ago, came before that tribunal again on Tuesday, when the original defendants moved the Court to strike out the original petition of plaintiff. Messrs. Martin and Yui heard the case. It will be recalled that the original motion presented by Mr. F. A. Hadley requested the Court to appoint the Court Accountants as liquidators of the Shanghai Branch, which was opposed by Mr. du Pac de Marsoulies. The Court would not interfere in the local situation and matter was left in the hands of the Peking liquidators. Mr. Yang represented Mrs. Golovina.

At yesterday's session counsel agreed that Mrs. Golovina should attempt to have her accounts settled by the Government liquidator. If satisfaction were not obtained, then counsel and the Court could act upon the motion before them.

The defendant's motion follows:—

Now comes the above named defendant by its counsel and moves this honourable Court to strike off the petition filed by the plaintiff on October 21, 1926 and bases its application on the following grounds:—

1. The defendant bank has gone into liquidation in accordance with the public announcements made in Shanghai and elsewhere, prior to the plaintiff filing her petition in this honourable Court.

2. The Government of the Republic of China has promulgated regulations for the liquidation of the defendant Bank on September 30, 1926 and appointed liquidators for the Shanghai branch.

3. In accordance with the said regulations creditors of the defendant bank have to present their claims to the liquidators who will notify the claimants of their decision.

4. In accordance with the said regulations an appeal may be made to the general liquidators in Peking in case a claimant is not satisfied with the local liquidators' decision and only after the said general liquidators decision a case may be entered in the competent Court.

5. The plaintiff has not filed her claim with the local liquidators and therefore has no cause of action.

KRSCHIVITSKY v. RUSSO-ASIATIC BANK

Four gold bars, the alleged property formerly of one of Russia's leading White leaders (whence he got it is not known) were the subject of litigation in the Mixed Court on Tuesday morning, when Messrs. Martin and Yui were petitioned by A. Krschivitsky to restrain the Russo-Asiatic Bank from disposing of them. The bars are believed to be worth just under G. $30,000.

Dr. Fischer, appearing for plaintiff, argued, that as the property was not on deposit, but in the vaults for safe-keeping, the liquidator had no right to touch it. Mr. A. du Pac de Marsoulies admitted the justice of the claim for restraint but opposed the original motion, i.e., that the Bank should hand over the bars.

The Court ordered that the liquidator should not dispose of the disputed gold bars.

The petition follows:—

The petition of the above named plaintiff to this honourable Court whereth as follows:

1. Plaintiff is a Russian citizen and the defendant is a Bank, subject to the jurisdiction of this honourable Court.

2. On December 15, 1919 the defendant has received from the plaintiff for safe keeping the following (5) five Gold Bars, weighing.

Bar	No. 1424 ozs.	440.10
"	No. 1422 "	438.125
"	No. 1719 "	441.75
"	No. 1423 "	438.10

3. On September 3, 1920 the plaintiff has received back from the defendant Bar No. 1421.

4. On November 30, 1926 the plaintiff has duly applied by his counsel to the liquidators of defendant Bank for the return of the remaining for gold bars but the defendant has refused and still refuses to return the same though the plaintiff has offered the payment of charges and delivery of the deposit receipt issued by the defendant.

Wherefore plaintiff prays this Honourable Court:

1. To order the defendant to return forthwith the said 4 (four) gold bars.

2. For costs.

3. For such further or other relief as to this Honourable Court may seem meet and just.

Motion of Restraint

Now comes the above named plaintiff by his counsel and moves this honourable Court for an order restraining the defendant to dispose of or to deal with the four (4) Gold bars, the subject matter of the above entitled action *pendente lite*.

S'HAI DISTRICT COURT

CHINESE REPUBLIC v. HUNG PAO-CHI

A Chinese constable, Huang Pao-chi, attached to the Sinza Road police station, was brought before the Shanghai District Court on Saturday and charged with trespassing in Chinese territory whilst on duty on September 29 last and with murdering Liu Pao-lin, within the jurisdiction of the Court.

Mr. Sun Shao-kang, Chief District Procurator, prosecuted, and counsel was appointed by the Court to watch proceedings on behalf of the accused.

Questioned by the Court regarding the affair, accused admitted that he killed the man Lu but he did so in self-defence. He did not know the deceased and had not seen him before September 29, on that day he was posted on duty at the Markham Road Bridge and he was patrolling the the place when he found the deceased and several other men gambling openly. He ordered them away in accordance with his duty, but denied having demanded any money to keep quiet. An hour later, deceased returned to the place with a gang of ruffians who apparently were determined to get revenge. They rushed up and attacked him, one holding his arms and another demanding to know why he drove them off whilst they were having a game. Harsh words followed and then fisticuffs. Seeing that he was at a decided disadvantage, accused drew his pistol to defend himself. He did so more to frighten them than with intent to use it. A couple tried to seize the weapon, whilst others pushed him into Chinese territory. The result was that his finger touched the trigger, and the weapon went off, killing deceased on the spot. Accused did not know how many shots were fired.

In answer to the judge, accused said that his pistol contained six bullets. After the firing, there was only one remaining.

Plea for Leniency

The Judge—You fired five shots and all were directed at the body of the deceased. That is sufficient to make one suspect that you acted with malice aforethought.

Accused, weeping, denied this and said that he only carried out his duty. He did not know how the bullets came to strike deceased and he was at loss to defend himself. He appealed to the court for leniency.

Deceased's wife said that her husband was 31 years of age and a native of Tientsin. They lived in Chapei, deceased being a hawker by trade. On September 29, her husband was doing business as usual and the accused approached him and demanded "custom money" (40 cents, according to witness). Deceased offered him 20 cents but accused refused to accept it and so he declined to permit him to carry on his business at the place. It was natural that her husband grumbled at being driven away and so he challenged the accused to cross the boundary. Accused went across and drew his pistol. He fired several shots into deceased's body and killed him outright. Witness was terribly frightened and so she ran away and hid herself. There were no ruffians on the spot. Apart from the criminal proceedings, she demanded $1,000 as funeral and maintenance expenses.

The Court then ordered that accused should pay the accused's wife $200 to defray the funeral exposes and deferred judgment in the criminal case until the next session.

Accused was brought before the Court again on Tuesday and found guilty. He was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment.

THE Chapei police arrested three Chinese bandits on Saturday morning for having pistols found in their possession, and attempting to enter a Chinese dwelling house at Chow Kia-chiao. They were detained in Chapei pending official inquiry.

THE Robert Dollar liner President Wilson, commanded by Capt. F. E. Anderson, arrived in Shanghai on Wednesday from Manila, completing her last voyage on the trans-Pacific service. Upon her arrival in San Francisco the vessel is to be reprovisioned for her world voyage, and will sail from the same port on the schedule made vacant by the President Harrison. The vessel sails this morning.

A FIRE occurred in a row of Chinese shops at the corner of Yuhang and Wuchow Roads at 11.35 last Friday morning. The Fire Brigade was immediately called into action, but did not succeed in putting out the blaze until it had badly damaged the top floor of the premises at 1456 and 1459 Wuchow Road. One Chinese was overcome by the fumes, but recovered after being given treatment by the firemen for several minutes.

AN ex-mill worker was arrested in Gordon Road by the Pootoo Road police last Friday morning and found to be in possession of a number of handbills of an inflammatory nature. One of the leaflets read, "To-day is the anniversay of the death of Liu Hua (a former labour leader). He was murdered by Sun Chuan-fang. We should celebrate the day by deciding to redouble our efforts with a view to overthrowing Sun.

ABOUT 395 workers of the night shift at the Heng Foong cotton mill, 1 Whashing Road, resumed work unconditionally on Thursday evening after having been on strike since December 14. On Thursday evening 480 female and 160 male workers of the Yangtzepoo cotton mill number 11, in Yangtzepoo Road, struck to compel the management to punish a male worker who is alleged to have stolen a female workers's clothing. All of them returned to work yesterday morning unconditionally.

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PERSONAL NOTES

MRS. J. M. Spencer Knight returned to Shanghai by the Dollar liner President Lincoln on Sunday.

M. R. d'Auxion de Ruffé left for France on Sunday on holiday, travelling *vid* Siberia.

MR. A. H. Harrison of the insurance department of Messrs. Dodwell & Co. returned to Shanghai by the Fushimi Maru on Saturday.

MRS. J. W. Schoenfeld, who has been home on an extended visit, returned to Shanghai on the President Lincoln accompanied by her mother.

MR. Tong Shao-yi, the veteran Chinese diplomat and statesman, has returned from a tour in the south.

MR. and MRS. Arthur Bassett, Miss Margaret Powell and Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Culbertson arrived in Shanghai on Monday by the President Lincoln.

HIS many friends will be pleased to know that Dr. V. K. Ting has passed the crisis which followed last Sunday's motoring accident and that the Mayor is now convalescing in the Red Cross Hospital. His condition has greatly improved and it is expected that he will soon be able to leave hospital.

SIR Percival Phillips, special correspondent of the London "Daily Mail," who has been in Hankow some time reporting the situation for his paper, returned to Shanghai on Thursday. Mr. W. Turner, Manager of Reuter's, who has also been in Hankow, is returning to Shanghai during the next few days.

AMERICAN Consular personnel changes include the following: Mr. Howard Bucknell, Jr., and Mr. Maxwell Hamilton, Consuls attached to the American Consulate General at Shanghai, have been promoted from Foreign Service Officers of Class 8 to Foreign Service Officers of Class 7. The resignation of Vice Consul G. W. Strong has been accepted and he has returned to the United States. Mr. T. B. Clark and Mr. J. Thomas Hodgens, of the staff of the Consulate General, have been appointed Vice Consuls.

AS a testimonial of the esteem in which the American Community held Dr. Anne Walter Fearn who left Shanghai on Wednesday for a year's travel, a tablet inscribed with names of clubwomen with whom she has been associated for the 12 years of A.W.C. activities was presented to her on Tuesday. The booklet described Dr. Fearn's work in China during the past 8 years, her former missionary work and her later hospital work in Fearn's Private Sanitarium, her activities for the Navy Y.M.C.A., the American School, the A.W.C. and other features of social life in Shanghai. Dr. Fearn left on board the str. Empress of Canada and will spend several months in Manila, the Straits Settlements, India, Palestine and Europe. She hopes to return to Shanghai in one year and take up permanent residence in the Majestic Hotel.

A CHINESE dinner in honour of the Swiss (acting) Vice-Consul-General, Dr. F. W. Zuber, was given by Li Wan-chun, the well known boy actor belonging to Mei Lan-fang's troupe, at a Szechuan restaurant in Avenue Edward VII on Friday evening. Dr. Zuber is well known as a scholar of the Chinese language, literature and archæology, and takes a great interest in Chinese drama. The guests included the following:—Mr. and Mrs. J. Lilliehook, Viscount de Rougé, Director of International Red Cross at Paris, Mr. H. Cuénod, Special Delegate of the International Red Cross, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Waterman, Mr. T. Siqueland, (Vice-Consul for Norway), Mr. C. A. C. Brun, (Vice-Consul for Denmark), Mr. L. Jacot-Guillarmod, Mr. E. Luthy and Mr. Henry K. F. Ai. After the dinner, the guests were invited to the Dah Hsing Theatre where Li Wan-chun and his assistants gave a showing of the drama "Sung Ting Ling."

DET.-INSPR. and Mrs. J. Hunter arrived in Shanghai on Sunday.

MR. A. W. Haywood, well known as a Shanghai inter-port cricketer, is at present at the top of the Hongkong first class batting averages with an average of 125.

THE many friends in South China of Mrs. Ethel Grace Ramsey Thomson will regret to hear of her death which occurred in Quebec on November 8 at the home of her parents Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Ramsey. The late Mrs. Ramsey was the wife of Dr. J. Oscar Thomson, a well known missionary in Canton, with whose work she had been associated for many years. Besides her husband, she leaves her parents, three brothers, Dr. G. Stuart Ramsey of Montreal, Mr. Burton Ramsey of Quebec, Mr. Kenneth Ramsey of Montreal and two sisters, Mrs. May R. Thorn, and Mrs. Herbert Wright of Quebec.

DR. W. S. Parsons, Mrs. Parsons and child, arrived back in Shanghai on Tuesday by the President McKinley.

DR. L. G. Connor, of Washington, D. C., representing the United States Tariff Commission, is a guest at the Astor House Hotel.

AMONG the passengers arriving by the N.Y.K. S. Fushimi Maru during the week-end were Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Mitchell and child.

AMONG the passengers arriving here by the President Wilson on Wednesday were Col. S. Alexander of the U. S. Shipping Board, Lieut.-Arthur Dickson, R.N., of H.M.S. Tamar, *en route* for Home leave, and Lieut.-Commdr. H. W. Graf, of the U. S. Navy.

MR. and Mrs. W. H. Trenchard Davis and Miss Dodd left Shanghai on Wednesday by the Empress of Canada for Hongkong and South China on a combined business and pleasure trip. They expect to return by the same vessel on January 28.

MR. Wen Yin-hsin, Chief Justice of the Allied Military Court and Assistant Director of the Shanghai Bureau, has returned to the City from a visit to Hongkong.

THE travelling ticket examiners of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway entertained Mr. R. J. Glendinning, their Chief Traffic Inspector, to dinner on Monday evening at the Oriental Restaurant. Mr. Glendinning is retiring from the railway after 21 years' active service. After dinner Mr. Gee Chueng on behalf of the travelling ticket examiners, presented Mr. Glendinning with a silver loving cup engraved in Chinese with the words "you have benefited us all." Mr. Glendinning in reply thanked them all very heartily and much regretted that he was about to leave them. Mr. Cecil L. G. Wayne, Traffic Manager, and other members of his staff spoke very highly of Mr. Glendinning's unending devotion to duty, his genial manner, and his perfect application of justice in dealings with the staff which had contributed in so large a measure to the reputation of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway as the premier Line of China.

DET.-INSPR. 'Jack' Sullivan has returned to Shanghai from long leave spent on the Continent.

MR. Hsu Ting-kang has been appointed Civil Governor of Kiangsu in succession to Mr. Chen Tao-yi, who has just resigned.

GEN. Lu Hsiang-ting, Tupan of Chêkiang, accompanied by a heavy bodyguard, left for Nanking on Monday to confer with Marshal Sun Chuan-fang on questions relating to the defence of Chêkiang.

IT is understood that Marshal Sun Chuan-fang has consented to return the vessels belonging to the San Peh S. N. Co. which were commandered by his men several months ago.

THE employees of the Kung Dah cotton mill (Japanese) at 40 Yangtzepoo, which started on December 4, came to a close last Friday when 2,000 workers of the day shift went back to work following the attendance of 1,500 who were on the night shift.

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SPORTS AND PASTIMES

WEEK-END LOCAL SOCCER

The Mighty Humbled: Football Club Lose to P.S.A.; Recs Well Drubbed by Police

Results

THE LEAGUE—FIRST DIVISION

Police	3 S.R.C.	0
P.S.A.	4 S.F.C.	3
Artillery	3 Three Cultures	1

THE LEAGUE—SECOND DIVISION

St. Xavier's	6 Police	3
Junior Athletic	2 Jewish R.C.	1
S.F.C.	8 Deutscher Sportverein	7

According to last Friday's "Municipal Gazette", the total strength of the foreign branch of the Municipal Police ■ 366. These figures are unimpeachable in their accuracy and cannot be doubted; but on Saturday afternoon there was such a volume of vocal enthusiasm from the supporters of the Police team on the Police ground as would have done credit to a crowd of 5,000. The occasion was auspicious; the enthusiasm justified; the noise understandable; for the Police players, looking really charming in their new blouses adorned back and front with a dainty and artistic *decollété motif* (if such an expression may be perpetrated) were busily and thoroughly engaged in administering a drubbing to the leaders of the League; and great was the joy among the Police on the sidelines. Of real comparison between the teams there was none; for the Police were ■ obviously and overwhelmingly superior in middle line and attack as to render comparison superfluous and to give one to wonder how the Recs, unless they have played much, much better football on the Saturdays that have gone before, managed to secure such a lead in the League table. The Police, despite the fact that out of about three score and ten scoring shots, only three came to fruition, played like winners for at least 80 minutes of the 90; and not the least remarkable feature about their team was their condition. Previously, the Police have been understood to train on anything but exercise; but on Saturday they reminded us of an advertisement for somebody's lemonade powder which appeared in a West Indian paper many years ago, in which it was stated "the more water you add, the stronger it gets!" That was the Police on Saturday; the longer and the harder they played, the fresher they appeared to become—and that in a game which was one of the hardest and fastest seen anywhere in Shanghai this season. The Police, on present form, are certainly the strongest side in the League, and we feel sure that both the S.F.C. and the Recs, who have experienced that form recently, would freely admit the soft impeachment. Incidentally, there is a story going around, started by whom we know not, though Quayle has been heard to refer to the matter, that the Police have some sort of designs on the Skottowe Cup this season. We do not doubt it.

And while all of this was happening on the Police ground, on the sward at Hongkew Park, many li away, another epoch-making event was being staged, the occasion being the meeting of the lowly Portuguese Sporting Association who (and we feel sure they will pardon us for saying so) have been looked upon by some people as fairly easy point fodder, and the Champions of the League, the Holders of the Skottowe Cup, and last season's almost unbeatable team, the S.F.C. The Football Club were attempting to demonstrate that the previous meeting of these two teams, when the Club won by 10-0, was no fluke, while the P.S.A were eminently successful in their endeavours to show that it certainly was. The Football Club lost. That phrase, intangibly but indubitably, is much more pregnant with meaning than would be simply to say that the Portuguese won. These two events on Saturday must surely be without precedent in local soccer during recent years. The S.R.C. and the S.F.C. have for so long been looked upon as fated by strength, right and inheritance ■ fight alone for the two top positions of the league that it comes as somewhat of a shock to find them separated, and with the by no means remote possibility of both finishing somewhere in the middle of the table; even the Oldest Football Inhabitant of Shanghai cannot recall any occasion on which both swallowed the dust of defeat on the same day. We presume the Portuguese were suitably jubilant over their success; we know the Police were, and after the event they held an informal At Home in the hospitable precincts of Louza. What an At Home at Louza means can be appreciated only by those who have been fortunate to be there after a famous victory. We remember the one after the Police won the Skottowe Cup in 1920 (or 1921); in fact it is doubtful if any from among those present will ever forget it.

But let us not, in all this talk of the S.R.C. and S.F.C. and P.S.A. and Police, forget those infants of First Division football, the Artillery Company, S. V. C. While the Police were hammering the Recs and the Portuguese the Football Club, the Artillery were as busily engaged in securing a couple of most useful points from the Three Cultures, and in winning, and deservedly, by 3-1, they exactly reversed the score when the same teams met on October 16 and the Three Cultures made so promising a debut into foreign competition football.

The Tse-ling Cup match between the Thomas Hanbury School and the Public School, which was to have been played on the S.R.C. ground, had again to be postponed, this time on account of the impossible condition of the playing pitch; while for the same reason the Second Division match on the Widow's Monument ground between the Navy and the P.S.A. had also to be postponed. On the Football Club ground the Police second team, resplendent in new jerseys like the No. 1 teams got much the worst of the argument against St. Xavier's and lost by 6-3; while on the Polo ground the Football Club second and the Deutscher Sportverein provided one of the freak results of the century by returning a score of 8-7 in favour of the S.F.C. Despite their magnitude, the figures are believed to be quite correct, as in addition to a pencil and paper record they were carefully compiled by an expert on the abacus. Of all the games played on Saturday, the match between the Jewish R.C. and the Junior Athletic produced the only really normal result—two goals each.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Colours v. Whites

Sides for this game were again not up to full strength on Saturday, several three-quarters not turning up. The ground was very wet and with ■ sloppy ball fast play was out of the question. After some midfield play Colours took up the attack, and after ■ three movement C.W.R. Thompson scored close to the posts. The kick failed. Another back movement by Colours in which Burrell, their full-back, was prominent, resulted in Thompson again scoring. The kick again failed. Half time arrived with Colours still pressing.

Scores were:—
Colours—6 points.
Whites—Nil.

On resuming Whites came away, and a good run by Rothe resulted in a score by him between the posts. The kick failed. Whites threes again came away, but were checked by Burrell, whose tackling throughout the game was very good.

Final scores were:—
Colours (2 tries)—6 points.
Whites (1 try)—3 points.

Club v. Navy

This again proved a well contested and hard match. The wet ground made rather heavy going. The Club kicked off against the wind and play kept to midfield for a while. Here the Navy were awarded a free kick, but the advantage gained through this was short lived, the Club threes securing and taking play into Navy's half, King being prominent. Half time arrived with no score to either side.

On resuming, play kept to midfield for a while. The Club's forwards then pressed the Navy back ■ their line. From a scrum at 5 yards the Club got possession, the ball travelling out to McGill on the right wing, who ran over and scored at the corner. Rodgers just failed to convert a very difficult kick. Shortly after the Club's threes gained possession of the ball, which again travelled out to McGill on the wing, who, from almost half-way, dodged three Navy men and scored between the posts. Rodgers converted the try. The Club again went away, and another three run resulted in Dunkley scoring from a pass by King. Rodgers was again successful with the kick. From a scrum the Club again got possession and King scored at the corner. Nicholl converted from a very difficult position. From here through a forward rush, the Club took the ball into Navy's 25 and forced them to touchdown. From the drop-out the Navy again came away and forced the Club right back to their own line, where, from a scrum near the line Brockett-Pugh got through. Jago was successful with the kick.

Final scores were:—
Club (3 goals, 1 try)—18 points.
Navy (1 goal)—5 points.

International Trial

London, Dec. 19.

English Probables 32, Possibles 11
Scotland 28, The Rest 3.
Club matches:
Richmond (1, Blackheath 8.
Harlequins 36, Gloucester 7.
Barts 36, Chatham Services 6.
Cardiff 22, Guys 10.
Llanelly 9, Newport 9.—Reuter.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Latest League Results

London, Dec. 18.

FIRST DIVISION

Arsenal 2, Tottenham H. 4
Aston V. 3, Huddersfield T. 0
Bolton W. 2, Sanderland 2
Burnley 5, Everton 1
Cardiff C. 0, Blackburn R. 1
Derby C. 2, Bury 0
Leeds U. 4, The Wednesday 1
Liverpool 0, West Ham U. 0
Manchester U. 2, Wes. Bromwich A. 0
Newcastle U. 1, Leicester C. 1
Sheffield U. 4, Birmingham 2.

SECOND DIVISION

Bradford C. 4, Manchester C. 3
Chelsea 2, Darlington ■
Clapton O. 6, Reading 1
Hull C. 2, Fulham 0
Middlesborough 7, Swansea T. 1
Notts C. 2, Blackpool 3
Port Vale 0, Nottingham F. 2
Preston N. E. 1, Portsmouth 2
Southampton 3, Barnsley 1
South Shields 4, Oldham A. 1
Wolverhampton W. 8, Grimsby T. 4

THIRD DIVISION
(Southern Section)

Brentford 3, Watford 0
Brighton & Hove A. 3, Aberdare A. 1
Bristol R. 1, Coventry C. 2
Exeter C. 1, Charlton A. 0
Luton T. 3, Plymouth A. 3
Merthyr T. 1, Bristol C. 1
Millwall 1, Crystal P. 0
Northampton 2, Gillingham 1
Norwich C. 1, Newport C. 0
Southend U. 0, Bournemouth 3
Swindon T. 0, Queen's Park R. 2.

THIRD DIVISION
(Northern Section)

Accrington S. 2, Bradford 3
Barrow 0, Doncaster R. 1
Crewe A. 2, Wigan B. 4
Durham C. 3, Walsall 0
Halifax T. 2, Stoke C. 2
Hartlepools U. 4, Wrexham 0
Lincoln C. 1, Rotherham U. 2
Southport 4, Ashington 1
Stockport C. 1, New Brighton 0
Rochdale 8, Chesterfield 1
Tranmere R. 2, Nelson 2.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE—FIRST DIVISION

Airdrieonians 6, St. Johnstone 1
Clyde 6, Morton 0
Dundee U. 2, St. Mirren 1
Dunfermline 0, Hearts 2
Falkirk 3, Hamilton A. 2
Hibernians 2, Cowdenbeath 0
Kilmarnock 0, Rangers 0
Motherwell 1, Aberdeen 0
Paisley Thistle 0, Celtic 3.

Scotland beat England

Dec. 18.

Scotland beat England by four goals to one to-day at Leicester in the first amateur Association football international ever played between them. The weather was fine and 10,000 persons witnessed the match.—Reuter.

M. C. C. TOUR IN INDIA

Bombay, Dec. 18.

The first of three unofficial test matches was concluded to-day without result.

The M. C. C. tourists batted first and scored 362 (Wyatt scoring ■ and Parsons 58, while Nazi Rali took four wickets for 114).

The All-India Indians compiled 437 (Wazi Rali making 48, Navle 74, Deodhar 148 and Mistri 51).

The M. C. C. had made 97 for the loss of five wickets when stumps were drawn.

There were most enthusiastic scenes at the close.—Reuter.

SHANGHAI HOCKEY LEAGUE

Trojans and Portuguese Win on Saturday: Police and German H. C. Defeated

Two Hockey League matches were played off on Saturday, in the first of which the P.S.A. team defeated the Police by six goals to one, the other being between the German Hockey Club and the Trojans, the latter winning by the old goal in nine.

The Police, already having won two games over the Tutorials and the Germans, were thought to be the probable winners, but the fast work of the Portuguese was too much for them despite the large number of Sikh veterans. It was hard hitting by the Portuguese which won the match for them and Widdowson was the only one to score for the guardians of the law. This was in the second half.

Trojans v. Germans

In one of the most closely-contested hockey matches, full of skill and hard playing, of the season, the Germans went down to defeat at the hands of the Trojans on Saturday, score 5-4.

The Germans were the first to score, but R. M. Nash with two goals, put his side in front. At the conclusion of the first period, the Germans, having made three more goals, had the lead with 4-2. Rawathorne brought the score even. Schorsh scored the winning goal. Cortuin scored three for the G. H. C. team.

BASKETBALL

Rowing Club's Victory

The Rowing Club basket ball team had another victory last Friday night on their home floor, when they beat the Columbia Country Club in the first division of the Foreign Basket Ball League. The game was fast and close, but somewhat rough.

The visitors began very well by dropping in two goals. The rowers soon forged ahead, scoring three field goals in rapid succession. At interval the S. R. C. were leading by 10-6. In the mid-way of the second half the Rowing Club became aggressive and increased their count. In the last few minutes the C. C. C. rallied, culminating two goals from Henningsen.

The Shun Pao basket ball team defeated the Chinan Institute quintette last Friday evening on the Pavilion floor by 36 to 29. The game was fast and closely contested. The combinations put up by both teams were good. Shun Pao obtained the verdict of the match by superior shooting.

THE DAVIS CUP

Greece Competing for First Time

New York, Dec. 19.

Greece had filed her challenge for the Davis Cup in 1927. This is the first time she is competing. She has been elected to play in the European zone.—Reuter.

CROSS-COUNTRY RACES

The four miles road and cross-country held on Sunday in the Kiangwan district between the Junior Athletic Club and the Shanghai Amateur Athletic Club was a very hard race on account of the condition of the country and where there were creeks formerly they were swollen streams after so many days' rain.

The trail was red paper with four jumps and it was laid by the veteran cross-country runner, Tom McKenna and being familiar with the old Kiangwan course, it was well laid with the kind assistance of three member of the J. A. C.

The race was a one sided affair, as the Running Club fielded 12 runners, while the J. A. C. were only able to place three men. It must have been through a misunderstanding, so it was decided that the first three men in to count towards the team points, instead of six as was originally planned.

The course was covered in the slow time of 25 min, 4 sec. and the following finished the course:

1. R. E. Brown (captain).
2. J. Crookdake
3. G. R. Bont.
4. M. B. Varndell.
5. M. Arnhold.
6. M. Glooshkoff.
7. M. Peniguel.
8. N. Conceff.
9. F. A. Atkinson.
10. T. B. McAuley.

All the above runners were S. A. A. C. runners.

At the very first creek every runner was up to his waist in water and some were actually swimming, as will be seen by the motion picture taken by the Peacock Film Co., and the photographers.

The runners were started by Mr. John Zellensky.

AMATEUR BOXING

Vindictive Cup Won by Sailors

The Vindictive Cup, fought for by representatives of H. M. S. Despatch and Keppel and Shanghai amateur boxers, was won on Wednesday night at the Palais de Danse by the former by virtue of championships in four of the six events. At the conclusion of the exhibition, Maj-E. H. McMichael, chairman of the Shanghai Amateur Boxing Association, presented the Cup to Capt. La Mott, H. M. S. Despatch, the latter replying suitably.

In addition to the championship events, four other bouts between Shanghai amateurs were on the programme.

Shanghai's wins came through the prowess of 'Joe' Johansen and Herzberg, both of whom are well known to the public. Johansen has just returned to port after a long absence, introducing himself by showing the audience just how to make a man feel bad after two rounds. Flint's seconds threw the towel in to the ring before the conclusion of the second.

Herzberg and Dumford gave four two-minutes rounds of beautiful boxing, in which both were quite evenly matched. They were fast on the offensive and both guarded well. In the end the judges found in favour of the Shanghai youngster.

After Davies of Shanghai had scored a good number of points in the first two rounds and was going strong in the third and last round, Gire landed a right to the chin to floor Davies. He came up twice more, when his seconds tossed in the towel.

Gritt had it well over Paltner for about three minutes, when the latter's seconds stopped the fight. Varndell of Shanghai could not hold his pace with Morris and within 90 seconds took the count.

Smith and Russel gave exhibition rounds, as did Ferras and Peniguel. Keenan had Hamilton (both of Shanghai) at his mercy all the while and won with ease. Strauss's seconds took pity on him in the last round and waved the flag, Kanis winning.

Hester of the Navy got Smith of Shanghai, dropping him in the second round.

Dr. O'Hara refereed, Capt. W. Beatty and Lieut.-Cmdr. C. E. C. Robinson judged, while Corps Sgt.-Mnj announced the events, Mr. S. A. Sayer keeping time.

Maj McMichael presented the prizes at the conclusion.

BIG BASEBALL DEAL

Player Transferred for Big Sum

New York, Dec. 21.

One of the biggest deals ever made in the history of baseball was revealed to-night with the announcement of the transfer of Rogers Hornsby, manager and second baseman of the St. Louis Cardinals, this year's champion baseball team, to the New York Giants.

Owing to failure to agree on salary terms—Hornsby insisted upon $50,000 yearly with a three-year contract—and a quarrel with the chief owner of the St. Louis Club, Hornsby was "traded" for two members of the Giants' team.

It will be recalled that only two years ago one club offered the Cardinals $250,000 cash for their star hiter. The Giants have long been seeking a counter-attraction to Babe Ruth, the star of the New York Yankees, whose salary is $52,000.—Reuter.

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FOREIGN TELEGRAMS

A REVOLUTION IN LITHUANIA

Government Charged with Plot to Betray Country to Bolshevists: Allegations That it was Propagated in Baltic States: Gen. Smetona Elected President

Berlin, Dec. 17.

It is reliably reported from Memel that the Lithuanian Government has been overthrown and its members arrested. Martial law has been declared. General Smetana, backed by the military forces, has taken over the Government.

An Army Conspiracy

Dec. 18.

The Lithuanian revolution was the outcome of a conspiracy of Army officers, leaders of defence organizations and a league of war.

Volunteers and troops surrounded Parliament. A Kovno officer entered and announced that the Army had resolved to overthrow the Government, whose aim, he said, was to betray the Lithuanians to the Bolshevists. He declared that Parliament was dissolved and arrested the President.

Troops seized the railways, post office and the State Bank.

The revolution is led by Major Plechavicius, who has taken charge of the office of the General Staff.

All is quiet in Memel.

It is reported that a battle is impending near Kovno between General Smetona's troops and a few loyal regiments.

Col. Glovatsky, leader of the Lithuanian Fascisti, has been appointed Military Governor of Kovno. —Reuter.

Coup Without Bloodshed

Riga, Dec. 17.

The *coup d'état* in Lithuania was carried out without bloodshed. Placards were posted in the streets accusing the Government of selling the country to the Bolsheviks and foreigners and announcing that the military forces were therefore temporarily taking control.

Dec. 18.

Passengers from Kovno report that all is quiet in Lithuania. The revolutionaries have released some of the ex-Ministers but the President, Premier and Ministers of War and of the Interior are still in custody.—Reuter.

Warsaw, Dec. 18.

Uneasiness is felt here regarding Lithuania's future policy owing to the pro-German tendencies of General Smetana.—Reuter.

New Government

London, Dec. 18.

The new Lithuanian Government has been formed from the Nationalist Party, with M. Valdemaras as Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs, according to a message from Kovno.

Charge and Counter-Charges

Dec. 19.

Accusations, denials and counter-accusations propagated in the Baltic States evidence the concern with which the Lithuanian *coup d'etat* is watched abroad, especially in Russia and Poland. The latter is credited with a feeling of anxiety regarding the recent ratification of the Russo-Lithuanian guarantee pact which, *inter alia*, virtually recognises Lithuania's right to Vilna, which Poland has held with international sanction since Zeligowski's coup of 1920.

Reports from Warsaw to the effect that Lithuania is contemplating an attack on Vilna has evoked a denial from the Lithuanian Minister in London, who emphasizes the purely domestic nature of the *coup d'etat*.

Inspired by Imperialists

Reuter's Moscow correspondent says that the "*Isvestia*," however, asserts that the developments were inspired by outside influences, particularly "Imperialistic elements in Poland." The paper declares that the Soviets will not interfere in internal affairs but they cannot remain a disinterested spectator of plans to abolish Lithuanian independence.

Reuter's correspondent at Riga states that the military authorities at Kovno have induced the President formally to dismiss the old Ministry and sanction the formation of a new Cabinet under Professor Valdemaras.

The latter has issued a statement to the effect that the revolt was due to a fear that the Government, which was too friendly towards the Bolsheviks, was steering the country to a catastrophe.—Reuter.

Accusation of Communism

Riga, Dec. 19.

That they were preparing a communist rising in January supported by foreign gold is among the charges against the late Government featured by the Lithuanian press, which congratulates the Army on "carrying out the wishes of the people" and forestalling the intended revolution.

The newly-appointed commandant of Kovno has prohibited public meetings, strikes and profiteering. —Reuter.

A New President

Kovno, Dec. 19.

Dr. Grinius has resigned the presidency, to which General Smetona has been elected.

Parliament has assembled and the town is beflagged.—Reuter.

A BRITISH MISSION TO AMERICA

Industrial Inquiry: Prosperity of Workers: Many Partners in Firms They Serve

London, Dec. 17.

The Government's industrial mission, which went to America some time ago to inquire into industrial conditions and especially the relations between employers and employed, returned here to-day.

The delegation was very much impressed with the many new experiments in Canada and the United States to effect healthier and more harmonious relationships between capital and labour with or without trade unions. Co-operation is a noticeable feature, the delegation declares, and there is a large and constantly increasing amount of stocks and shares held by workpeople in the companies with which they are employed.

Another development noted by the mission is group insurance under which workers are individually insured, both sides contributing premiums. Many of the larger plants have full-time qualified doctors and nurses to attend to the work-people, gratis, and there are surgeries at some works. These are provided on a business and not on a sentimental ground, the delegation says.

Wages are level and much higher than in England and much is done to relieve the workman of heavy manual toil.

Normal hours vary from 40 to 60 hours a week. There have been few strikes lately, but these are regarded as local and have not affected industry as a whole.

The delegation was headed by Sir William Mackenzie and included Messrs. Mitchell, Leggett and Emerson of the Ministry of Labour, Mr. Bevin of the Transport Workers Union and the well-known industrialists, Messrs. Michael Dewar and Randolph Smith.—Reuter.

COMMONS' PRESENT TO AUSTRALIA

Replica of Speaker's Chair for Commonwealth Parliament

London, Dec. 19.

A delegation of the Parliamentary Association, headed by Lord Salisbury and including members of all parties in both Houses of Parliament, returned to London last night from Australia, where, on behalf of the British branch of the Association, a replica of the Speaker's Chair in the House of Commons was presented to Australia for the use of the Speaker in the buildings of the Commonwealth Parliament at the new capital, Canberra.

The tour began early in August and was the most ambitious one yet undertaken by the Association, and included visits to Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Members of the delegation were everywhere received with great cordiality and have returned deeply impressed with the immense resources of the countries visited.—British Wireless Through Reuter.

POPE AND WOMEN'S FASHIONS

Advice to Men to Join Corrective Crusade

London, Dec. 18.

According to a Rome correspondent, in receiving the Roman Association of Men's Catholic Associations, the Pope said that they should participate in the crusade against the immoral fashions and irreverent manners of modern women: "All who possess a sense of nobility and human dignity should try to put a barrier to the tendency to modern fashions, which are the seed of countless catastrophes.—Wireless through Reuter.

EXPLOSION ON U. S. COAST GUARD SCHOONER

New York, Dec. 18

Six out of eight of the crew of the coast-guard schooner Lincoln were killed to-day in an explosion on board followed by fire. The Lincoln was destroyed.—Reuter.

A CHAMBERMAID'S BITE

Famous Rose Diamond Discovered by a Modern Eve in an Apple

London, Dec. 20.

The Paris correspondent of the "Daily Mail" states that the famous Rose Diamond, one of the most famous gems in the world, which was stolen along with other valuables from the treasure tower of the historic Chateau of Chantilly on October 13, has been discovered in dramatic circumstances.

Paris detectives had been keeping watch for two months on two Alsatians living in the Hotel Boulevard de Strasburg, suspecting them of being connected with the Chantilly robbery. They searched their rooms but found no trace of the stolen treasures. On the mantelpiece of one of the rooms, however, was a red pippin apple of which a chambermaid took a bite and was astonished to find her teeth grate on a hard object. She opened the apple and found at the core a pink stone, which she thought might be a diamond. She took the apple to the police and the stone was identified. The two Alsatians were arrested and both confessed to having committed the robbery.—Wireless through Reuter.

CAIRO-KARACHI AIR MAIL

First Machines Leave London to Inaugurate New Service

London, Dec. 19.

Yesterday marked the first stage in the inauguration of the Cairo-Karachi Air Service. A machine left London in the early morning and after two hours and a half at Le Bourget near Paris, proceeded towards Marseilles. It was, however, found necessary to land at Lyons.

The passengers included Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker, Director of Civil Aviation and three others. The aeroplane will travel *vid* Naples to Malta, where it will await the arrival of the second machine which leaves London to-morrow.

The third machine, the one in which Sir Samuel Hoare accompanied by Lady Hoare and his staff are expected to travel is expected to leave on December 27. From Malta the route will be *vid* Home to Cairo, where the first machine is expected on December 24. It will remain there temporarily and the second machine will proceed to Basra. The third machine, which will reach Cairo early in the New Year, will leave for Basra on January 12 and thence by way of Karachi to Delhi.

A regular service will be opened in each direction between Cairo and Basra forthwith, but the Basra-Karachi section will not open until April.

Air lines will leave Cairo each Wednesday on the arrival of the mail boat from England and the return machines will leave Basra every alternate Saturday.

When in operation, the service will bring Karachi one week nearer to London.

Action by Dominions

Dec. 18.

It is stated that following upon discussions of airships at the Imperial Conference, the Governments of Canada and South Africa are contemplating the immediate erection of mooring masts similar to those at Cardington and Ismalia.

The "Manchester Guardian" states that these Dominions have requested the Air Ministry to send out airship experts to advise them in selecting the sites of the masts. In view of Australia's interest in the subject, it is surmised that experts will also visit the Commonwealth to advise on the site for a mast there. —Reuter.

SAN Antonio, Dec. 21.:—With the object of awakening interest in commercial aviation, five army aeroplanes commanded by Major Dargue have left on a 20,000 mile flight around South America.—Reute.

GERMAN SOCIALIST SUCCESS

Vote of Non-Confidence Passed With Nationalists' Aid: Cabinet Resigns

Berlin, Dec. 17.

The Government has resigned owing to the Socialist vote of non-confidence being adopted by the Reichstag by 249 votes to 171.

The Reichstag has adjourned until January 19.

The majority against the Government consisted of the Socialists, German Nationals, Communists and Extreme Nationalists.

The German Nationals voted in favour of the motion in spite of President von Hindenburg requesting their leader, Count Westarp, not to do so owing to reasons of foreign policy as important negotiations with the Entente were proceeding for which a stable Government was essential.

They (the German Nationals) have thus voted for the first time with the Socialists, not because they approved the Socialist criticisms of the Reichswehr but because, as Count Westarp stated, they considered it time for Germany to have a stable Government backed by the majority of the Reichstag.

President von Hindenburg has requested Dr. Marx to carry on until a new Government is formed.

The German Nationals are undoubtedly anxious to participate in the new Government. Possibly a coalition with them will be formed. On the other hand the Socialists may be willing to take over the reins with the support of the bourgeois parties.

Anyhow it is certain that Herr Stresemann will continue as Foreign Minister and that his foreign policy will be continued.—Reuter.

TENNIS CHAMPION'S SUDDEN DEATH

Found in Club Bedroom with Revolver Shot Wound

New York, Dec. 18.

The body of W. A. Larned, seven times lawn tennis singles champion of America, was found to-day by his valet in his bedroom at the Knickerbocker Club.

Death was due to a revolver shot. Deceased recently suffered from a nervous breakdown.

Mr. Larned was a member of the executive of the United States Lawn Tennis Association. He invented the steel-framed racquet in 1921.

The secretary of the United States Lawn Tennis Association said that Mr. Larned for the past six months had been paralysed from his waist downwards and had been in great agony.

Mr. Larned served in the Flying Corps in the War and with Roosevelt's Roughriders in the Spanish-American War.

He was a crack rifleshot, a fine hockey-player and a keen rider to hounds. His tennis career is unparalleled in the annals of American sport. He was the first of the modern hard-hitters and volleyers to establish his supremacy on the court.—Reuter.

LAUNCH CAPSIZED BY ICE FLOES

Unusual Accident in the Hudson River

New York, Dec. 20.

The bitter weather with which New York has been contending for the past fortnight caused an unusual accident in the Hudson River to-day when a large launch carrying workmen was capsized by ice-floes, ejecting hundreds of passengers into the icy water. All the available craft were rushed to the rescue but fourteen persons are already known to have died.

The death roll is now ascertained to be 33.—Reuter.

FRENCH MINISTERS TO JAPAN AND AMERICA

Paris, Dec. 18.

The appointment of M. Paul Claudel as Ambassador to the United States and of M. Debilly as Ambassador to Japan is officially gazetted.—Reuter.

THE ACQUITTAL OF FALL AND DOHENY

Press Comment and Politics: Triumph for the Jury System

New York, Dec. 17.

Newspaper comments on the acquittal of Fall and Doheny are tinged with political bias. The Republican "New York Herald-Tribune" rejoices at the acquittal as a wholesome corrective to sensationalism and a triumph for the jury system. It admits that the result is far from being a clean bill of health for Fall, but thinks that the jury could not ignore the patriotic motives behind the Doheny contract or the fact that the country benefited by the transaction in the swift construction of oil-tanks at Honolulu. The paper also thinks that Doheny's character as a pioneering American type influenced the jury in his favour.

On the other hand, the Democratic "New York Times" declares that the charges were notoriously hard to prove and the people of the United States, who constitute a larger jury, feel that a scandalous impropriety if not technically a crime was committed.—Reuter.

PRINCE OF WALES' PLUCK

Runaway Hunter Chased and Stopped

London, Dec. 18.

The Prince of Wales' pluck and presence of mind were shewn anew on Saturday when he stopped a runaway hunter while out with the Cottismore Hounds. Captain Alfred Lowenstein, the Belgian millionaire and financier, was thrown at an awkward spot and his horse bolted. The Prince headed in pursuit and checked its career and with the assistance of a labourer brought it to a standstill. Captain Lowenstein was uninjured and continued the run.

Among the six riders who dashed after the runaway was Mrs. Keld Fenwick, formerly Peggy Marsh, the actress. In 1920 Miss Marsh unsuccessfully claimed in U. S. courts for her little boy a £400,000 share of the £10,000,000 left by Henry Marshall Field, the Chicago Store King. The claim was based on the statement that the father of the boy was a grandson of the store king.—Wireless through Reuter.

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U.S. ARMY AND NAVY EXPENDITURE

No Addition to Budget: Pres. Coolidge's Stand: Ten New Cruisers Wanted

Washington, Dec. 18.

In spite of importunate pleas from various Navy and Army officials for more funds for "absolutely necessary" expenditure for defensive equipment, President Coolidge has written to the Editor of the "Army and Navy Journal" expressing the opinion that the Budget estimates already submitted to Congress adequately provide for the needs of the Army and Navy and Marine Corps for the fiscal year 1928.

Proposal for Ten Cruisers

Senator Butler, chairman of the Naval Committee, has introduced a Bill providing for the construction of 10 light cruisers of 10,000 tons at a total cost of $105,000,000 exclusive of armour and armament.

In the event of an international conference limiting naval armaments, the measure empowers the President to suspend the whole construction.

There have been recent murmurs regarding the President's national defence policy, especially naval. Several newspapers have voiced discontent, pointing out America's "inferiority" to Great Britain, particularly as regards cruisers.

To Force Britain's Hand

Two theories are obtaining:

(1) That Senator Butler is acting on his own responsibility urged by a "big Navy" Republican clique;

(2) That he is collaborating closely with President Collidge, with whom he conferred for an hour last night, the idea being not to incur vast expense in building the cruisers but to force the hand of Great Britain to make her agree to another limitation conference.

Desire for Cruisers

Dec. 20.

The bill introduced by Senator Butler, chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee, for the construction of ten cruisers at a cost of $15,000,000 each, has been reported on favourably to the House of Representatives.

Senator Butler, introducing the measure, described it as in line with President Coolidge's national defence programme. He declared that Britain, Japan and other countries were constructing large numbers of light cruisers of 10,000 tons or under, which was permissible under the Washington Treaty.—Reuter.

THE NEW PREMIER OF DENMARK

Hope of Substantial Reduction of Taxation

Copenhagen, Dec. 17.

The Rigsdag's new Premier, M. Madsen Mygdal, in outlining to the Cabinet his programme, stated that he would consider his principal task the discovery and solution of the economic crisis. By reducing State and district expenditure in order to achieve a substantial reduction of taxation, which weighed heavily on the economic life of the nation, it was necessary to adapt a number of laws voted during the inflation period and wartime to present economic conditions.

M. Mygdal announced that he would endeavour as soon as possible to come to a definite arrangement in regard to the affairs of the Landmansbank and would try to attract foreign capital so as to solve the question of credit. He foreshadowed amendment of the existing taxation laws with a view to the encouragement and development of voluntary thrift.—Reuter.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The Cairo correspondent of the "Daily Mail" states that King Fuad to-day opened the new model town of Port Fuad, adjoining Port Said, by laying the foundation stone of the Town Hall. An unfortunate incident marred the ceremony, many casualties, some fatal, occurring during the rush of a crowd to obtain the special one day issue of commemorative postage stamps.—Wireless through Reuter.

CHINA'S DEBT TO THE LEAGUE

Willingness to Pay Out of Revenue from Increased Customs' Dues

London, Dec. 20.

It is reported from Geneva that the Chinese Government has informed Sir Eric Drummond, Secretary-General of the League of Nations, of its preparedness to pay China's arrears to the League's expenses, exceeding $1,000,000, with the funds secured by the increase of 1½ per cent. on Customs duties on foreign goods.—Reuter.

MUSSOLINI ON FRIENDSHIP WITH FRANCE

And New Friendship with Asia: Italy's Need for Expansion

Rome, Dec. 17.

Signor Mussolini, interviewed today, emphasized that a Franco-Italian agreement was one of the fundamental necessities of European evolution. His guiding idea was the necessity of satisfying Italy's crying need for moral, spiritual and physical expansion by means of a pacific, not pacifist, policy, but that was in no way incompatible with friendship and co-operation with other nations.

The Fascist leader urged the necessity of abandoning the tendency to regard Asiatics as barbarians. He expressed the opinion that the so-called Asiatic peril would cease when the barrier of Eastern and Western mentalities was broken down. He advocated the continual re-establishment of the balance of power as the best formula for the maintenance of peace.—Reuter.

DEATH OF CENTENARIAN OF NEW YORK

Active in Business Till 99: Knew 20 Presidents

New York, Dec. 17.

The death is announced of the centenarian, John Aikman Stewart, the patriarch of Wall Street. Up to his 99th birthday he used a motor to New York three times a week to attend to his duties as Chairman of the United States Trust Company. He was personally acquainted with nearly all the Presidents since Jackson and was one of Lincoln's close advisers. His father was a native of Lewis Island in the Hebrides.—Reuter.

OBITUARY

Dr. Dresselhuys

The Hague, Dec. 16.

The death is announced of Dr. Dresselhuys, the Dutch Liberal leader.—Reuter.

Dr. Hugh Campbell Ross

London, Dec. 20.

Dr. Hugh Campbell Ross, the well-known research worker, has died from pneumonia while on his way home to England. He was buried at sea off Aden.

Dr. Ross was at one time Medical Officer of Health in Cairo and under Lord Cromer's administration started a campaign for the extermination of the mosquito. For the last eighteen years he had concentrated upon cancer and since 1910 had been Director of the McFadden Research Foundation. In the course of his investigations he visited the Pitcairn Islands, where cancer is rare, in order to examine the method of life prevailing there.—British Wireless through Reuter.

CEYLON AND RUBBER RESTRICTION

Motion to Withdraw from Scheme Rejected

Colombo, Dec. 17.

The Legislative Council has rejected the motion introduced on December 3, the object of which was that Ceylon should stand out from rubber restriction. The mover of the motion did not vote.—Reuter.

TRAGIC SENSATION IN NEW YORK

Alleged Attempted Murder and Suicide Over Rupture of Friendship

New York, Dec. 20.

A sensation has been created in the fashionable Park Avenue district by a tragedy involving the unrelated families of Mr. R. G. Ingersoll, the famous agnostic, and Mr. R. H. Ingersoll, the watch manufacturer.

The latter's estranged wife was to-day found shot dead in bed at her flat, clad in a dressing gown and adorned with jewels worth $35,000, while Mr. Wallace Probasco, the sexagenarian son-in-law of Mr. R. G. Ingersoll was seriously wounded. He had been shot twice in the chest and once in the arm and was lying near a telephone with which he had managed to 'phone his wife. The woman was clutching a revolver.

Mr. Probasco is now in hospital. He is technically charged with homicide, but he and his wife claim that Mrs. Ingersoll shot him (Probasco) and then killed herself owing to jealousy because he wanted to break off their long friendship.—Reuter.

COTTON SPINNING HOURS

Short-Time for American Cotton Dropped in Lancashire

London, Dec. 17.

Lancashire has been surprised by a decision of the Short-Time Organization Committee of the Federation of Master Cotton-Spinners' and Manufacturers' Associations at a meeting at Manchester to-day to abandon short-time working in the section spinning American cotton. The official reason given is the manner in which short-time is being observed.

Abandonment of Short Time Working

Dec. 18.

Commenting on the abandonment of short-time working in the cotton trade Sir Charles Macara, former President of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation, declared that removal of restrictions would merely add to the confusion and lead to the ruin of the industry, which needed regulation of supplies according to demand from statistics showing production, consumption and stocks.—Reuter.

Egyptian Government to Buy in Futures

Cairo, Dec. .

The Government announces that in order to counteract the pressure on the cotton futures market, which "leads to a fall in prices not owing to economic factors," it has decided to purchase all January contracts for Sakellaridis at 23¼ dollars and all contracts for December and February delivery of Ashmouni at 15½.

The Government will in each case ask for delivery of the goods.—Reuter.

THE PERILS OF PEACE

London, Dec. 19.

In a dense crowd of Christmas shoppers to-day, six bandits attacked the guard escorting a bank messenger at Kansas City and stole £15,800, escaping in a motor-car.—Wireless through Reuter.

LONDON, Dec. 20:—The body of Miss Una Crowe, aged 20, the second daughter of the late Sir Eyre Crowe, formerly Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, who has been missing since December 11 from her home in London, was found among rocks at Swanage Bay, 13 miles from her father's grave at Studland. Her feet were tied together by red tape. She had been in ill health consequent upon distress at her father's death. A verdict of suicide while of unsound mind was returned at the inquest on Miss Crowe, who will be buried to-morrow in the same grave as her father, the late Sir Eyre Crowe.—Wireless through Reuter.

FOREIGNERS' OIL RIGHTS IN MEXICO

Titles to Foreign Companies Under New Law: Enforcement of New Measures

Mexico City, Dec. 17.

The Government has telegraphed foreign companies that if they do not apply for confirmation of their titles in accordance with the oil laws within the time limit they will be deemed to have renounced their rights. A statement, however, in the same telegrams, says that the law does not provide for "forfeiture" for violation of the provisions. A further statement commented upon that a number of the largest companies popularly considered foreign, such as the La Corona and El Guila (Mexican Eagle Oil) are Mexican according to their articles of incorporation.

Negotiations Proceeding

Dec. 20.

Representatives of the various foreign oil companies have begun informal discussions with the Secretary of Industry, Commerce and Labour with a view to reaching an agreement with regard to the enforcement of the petroleum and land laws.

The Secretary had previously made a statement that the Government had not applied the laws retroactively and did not intend to do so: besides, the Mexican courts would not sanction this.

Referring to the nine important companies which have applied for the necessary concessions confirming their rights, the Secretary said that these companies "know our legislation not only does not attack their rights but is favourable to their interests."—Reuter.

THE PERSECUTION OF THE MEXICAN CHURCH

Strong Denunciation by the Pope at Consistory

Rome, Dec. 20.

The Pope at a secret consistory to-day created two new Cardinals, Monsignors Gamba and Lauri, Archbishops of Turin and Hephaestus respectively, and preconised a number of bishops.

His Holiness, in an address, strongly denounced the persecution of Catholics and the church in Mexico, where, he declared, the Government was incarcerating and even killing pious ecclesiastics and slaughtering unarmed faithful while praying in the sanctuary of the Madonna.

The Pope, after rejoicing in Signor Mussolini's recent escape, deplored the consequent attacks on Catholics in Italy and rejoiced that the Government had issued severe orders against violence.—Reuter.

FACTORY TRAGEDY AT PHILADELPHIA

Water Tank Crashes Through Many Floors

Philadelphia, Dec. 18.

An enormous water-tank crashed through the roof of a sweet factory to-day, killing two persons and burying many.

The tank reached the third floor, paused, then crashed into the cellar, cutting a gap 20 feet wide.

Three hundred firemen, police and others are clearing the *débris*.

One of the walls carried with it a number of high-tension wires, which dangled over the street. The current was finally cut.—Reuter.

THE FRENCH BUDGET PASSED

Treasury's Prosperous State: Surplus of 105 Million francs

Paris, Dec. 17.

The Senate to-day, by 250 votes to 6, passed the Budget, which shows an estimated surplus of 105,000,000 francs. M. Poincaré declared that the Treasury was now in a more favourable position that it had been for several years.—Reuter.

MILITARY SENTENCE CRITICIZED

German Indignation at Decisions of French Court Martial

Paris, Dec. 21.

The court martial in connexion with the Franco-German affray at Germersheim on September 27, when two French soldiers collided with several Germans, one of whom, Mueller, was killed and another, Mathes, wounded by shots from the French, resulted to-day in the French Lieutenant Rouzier being acquitted while Mathes was sentenced to two years' imprisonment in default. Minor sentences were passed on five other Germans.

Berlin, Dec. 21.

The news of the verdict in connexion with the Germersheim affair has been received with great indignation. Official quarters describe it as a travesty of justice and assert that all the weight of evidence was against the plea that Lt. Rouzier was provoked, and the death of the German Mueller is described as a cold-blooded murder.

The verdict is certain to arouse considerable feeling in Germany and responsible quarters fear that it will undo a great deal of the good work started at Locarno for the improvement of Franco-German relations.

German Press Indignant

Unabated indignation at the judgement is voiced in this morning's papers, which declare that while German territory is occupied and such acts committed with impunity, real Franco-German reconciliation is impossible.

The "*Lokal-Anzeiger*" says that the verdict will unite all hearts in Germany and the "*Kreuz-Zeitung*" declares: "Thus does Locarno look in reality."

The "*Tages-Zeitung*" says that the decision will not be forgotten when "France again tries to mislead Germany with promises."

The "*Allegemeine-Zeitung*" says that a verdict "which acquits a murderer and sentences his victims is a bloody mockery of justice."—Reuter.

RECENT IRISH CINEMA DISASTER

Conclusion of Manslaughter Trial

London, Dec. 17.

The trial was concluded at the Central Criminal Court of Dublin to-day of Patrick Brennan, William Ford, and Patrick Downing, owner, lessee and operator, respectively, of a cinema in Drumcollogher, which was destroyed by fire, with fatal results to 47 persons, last September.

Brennan, Ford and Downing were charged with manslaughter.

Brennan, the owner, was found "not guilty." The jury disagreed as regards Ford and Browning.—Reuter.

BY-ELECTION AT SMETHWICK

Labour Seat Retained by Increased Vote

London, Dec. 22.

The by-election at Smethwick due to the resignation of Mr. J. E. Davison (Labour) has resulted in the election of Mr. Oswald Mosley, the son-in-law of the late Marquess Curzon.

The voting was as follows:—

Mr. Oswald Mosley (Labour) .. 16,077
Mr. Marshall Pyke (Conservative) .. 9,426
Mr. Edwin Bayliss (Liberal) .. 2,660

At the last general election, Mr. Davison secured 14,491 votes to Mr. Pyke's 13,238. The electorate was 35,443.—Reuter.

FRANKFORT, Dec. 17.—Comrade Chicherin is undergoing treatment in a sanatorium here.—Reuter.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—Mr. Cuthbert M. Headlam has been appointed Parliamentary financial Secretary in succession to Mr. J. C. C. Davidson. Lord Lovatt has been appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Dominions Office and Chairman of the Overseas Settlement Committee in succession to the Earl of Clarendon.—Reuter.

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U. S. UNIVERSITY AND WAR DEBTS

Important Memorandum Issued: British and American Press Opinion

New York, Dec. 18.

The political science faculty of Columbia University to-day issued a long memorandum, contending that the war debts settlements are not sound and foster a deep sense of grievance against the United States and advocating complete reconsideration of debts and reparations in an international conference.

The memorandum declares that it has already been pointed out that reparation payments are holding Germany in financial bondage and two to three generations are necessary to permit the Allies to pay the United States. The memorandum counsels economic self-interest to urge the United States to meet Europe half-way.—Reuter's American Service.

German-American War Claims

Washington, Dec. 18.

The House of Representatives by 270 votes to 66 to-day passed the Alien Property Bill providing for the settlement of the German-American war claims, eighty per cent. of alien property held by the custodian being returned.

The measure now goes to the Senate.—Reuter's American Service.

British Press Views

London, Dec. 21.

The "Times" recognises that the general conference advocated by the faculty of political science of Columbia University could hardly approach War debts without reopening the question of reparations and throwing once more into the melting-pot the fundamental provisions of the Versailles Treaty and the settlements provided for therein.

The paper considers that the real value of the memorandum lies in the evidence it affords that a section of the educated opinion of the Eastern States accepts the views and arguments continuously pressed upon America by her European creditors.

Commenting on the above-mentioned memorandum, the "Daily Telegraph" declares it a most courageous document and emphasizes that any conference called by the United States—"and no other Power can think of calling it"—would naturally be welcomed by debtor-nations.

"We are confident," the paper declares, "that the appeal, which is based on a large and generous view of a very complex situation, will make steady headway: it is only progress which is in doubt."

The New York papers are giving the manifesto a foremost place, thus calling national attention to a topic hitherto left almost exclusively in the hands of the Government.

American Press Opinion

The New York "Times" declares: "The penetrating study of the entire matter by the Columbia authorities should be set down as an event which will have great influence in changing the mental attitude and altering the international policy of the American people."

Note: A long memorandum was issued on December 18 by the political science faculty of Columbia University advocating complete reconsideration of debts and reparations in an international conference. —Reuter.

Unfavourable Undertone of Political Opinion

Washington, Dec. 21.

A decidedly unfavourable undertone of opinion is expressed in political circles towards the war-debts proposals of Columbia University. Republicans and Democrats join in protesting that the United States has been a considerate creditor and that the statement is inopportune particularly in view of M. Poincaré's difficulty in getting the French war-debt settlement ratified.

The New York "World" considers that the Allies ought to be more lenient towards Germany before contemplating a further revision of their obligations to America.—Reuter.

The President's Rebuke

London, Dec. 21.

The Washington correspondent of the "Daily Mail" states that the White House spokesman, commenting on the Columbia University proposals for a world conference to study the war debt reparations situation, said that President Coolidge feels that such statements are harmful to the present international situation, adding that the "Government are attempting to work out their own salvation and the salvation of others as best they can. Adverse statements are not helpful to any concerned."—Wireless through Reuter.

UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION

Big Capital Increase in View

New York, Dec. 17.

It is officially announced that the United States Steel Corporation have unanimously voted for recommending to stock-holders at the annual meeting of the Corporation to be held in April next year, that the Corporation's common shares shall be increased by 2,033,210 shares, which would be equivalent to 40 per cent. of the present outstanding common shares, for the purpose of distributing them as an extra special dividend to common stock-holders.

Although some distribution had long been expected, the size of the bonus has caused general surprise. U. S. Steel common stock, was a feature of to-day's market and was dealt in in enormous volume, closing at 159-⅛, nearly five dollars above the previous day's quotation.

Bull Movement Follows Dividend

There was an outburst of bullish enthusiasm on the stocks market to-day following the United States Steel Corporation 40 per cent. dividend. The floor of the exchange was a scene of confusion, brokers struggling to execute orders from all parts of the world. There was tremendous buying of U.S. Steels and a series of large dividends by other concerns carried the rest of the list in spirited fashion, fanning the speculative flame of the public. A wide variety of stocks recorded sharp advances.—Reuter.

NEW AID FOR BRITISH ARTISTS

Scheme to Erect Imposing Palace of Art

London, Dec. 18.

A scheme is on foot to build a permanent British Empire palace of arts on the Thames Embankment at a cost of £1,000,000. The main object is to provide adequate exhibition space for painters and sculptors, and also galleries and theatres and a concert hall for composers, musicians and dramatists. Temporary premises have already been secured.—British Wireless through Reuter.

NEW BRAZILIAN CURRENCY

Decree Issued: Formation of Stabilization Fund

Rio de Janeiro, Dec. 19.

A decree has been issued providing for the substitution of a fresh unit for the milreis and conversion of the paper into a gold currency on a basis of 200 milligrams of gold per milreis. The date and form of the conversion will be fixed later, subject to six months' notice. The decree also provides for the formation of a stabilization fund.—Reuter.

"SOME" BUILDING

London, Dec. 13.

According to a message from New York, plans have been submitted there for a skyscraper of 110 storeys rising 1,208 feet above street level. It will cost over £4,000,000.

Further details of the 110 storey skyscraper show that it will be built on 42nd Street, between 8th and 9th Avenues, and will be known as Larkin Tower. It will give office accommodation to 30,000 persons. Sixty high-speed lifts will serve the tenants. The top floor of the tower will be given to sight-seeing purposes. —Wireless through Reuter.

MINTS OUTPUT OF SOVEREIGNS

Three and a Half Million Struck Last Year: Gold Reserves Enough

London, Dec. 21.

The annual report of the Deputy Master Comptroller of the Royal Mint shows that during the year 1925 three and a half million sovereigns were struck. It is made clear, however, that they were not for internal use. "Our gold reserves," says the Comptroller, "although sufficient to justify the return to the gold standard, are not enough to make possible the substitution of gold for notes in circulation." Nor is he aware that apart from sentiment any very serious desire has been evidenced for such a change. He points out also that the State has already borne the charge of one million pounds for wear and tear of old gold coinage since it undertook the duty of replacement as a recognized policy.—British Wireless through Reuter.

CHINESE BISHOPS IN PARIS

Fight Between Communists and Fascists During Mass

Paris, Dec. 20.

The celebration of mass in the church of South Paris, in which five Chinese bishops who are touring France were officiating, was interrupted by communists and Fascists fighting. The police were summoned and dispersed the combatants one of whom was sent to hospital.

The bishops were not hurt.

A ceremony marking a new phase in the history of missions was later performed at Notre Dame.

Cardinal Dubois, received the five Chinese bishops one of whom mounted the pulpit, spoke in Chinese for the benefit of many of their compatriots who were present.

The director of the work of St. Peter for the native clergy emphasized the importance of the ceremony as indicating a desire on the part of the Church to grant native clergy more autonomy.

The Chinese Minister was present and M. Poincaré was represented.—

TACNA-ARICA DISPUTE AGAIN

Peru's Suggestions for Settlement of Trouble

La Paz, Bolivia, Dec. 22.

A statement has been published in the press purporting to be Peru's reply to the suggestions of the U. S. Secretary of State, Mr. Kellogg, in regard to the Tacna-Arica dispute.

The Peruvian Government, it is stated, proposes that Peru should retain Tacna-Arica, while Peru and Chile, acting in agreement, should cede to Bolivia without pecuniary or territorial compensation all territory south of Tacna-Arica as far as the River Camarones, while Chile should retain the Childaya nitrate field and Bolivia retain Port Victor. —Reuter.

GOLD DREDGE FOR THE AMUR

Purchase of Philippine Machine for Siberia

Manila, Dec. 8.

A group of Russian engineers, at the head of which is an American, Mr. H. L. Lawson, formerly of Boise, Idaho, have just purchased a gold dredge here which was the property of a Manila bank for use along the Amur River in Siberia.

The dredge will be taken more than 300 miles by rail from Vladivostok and then hauled by horse teams another 500 miles into the Selmedjo district where gold dredging is being carried on.—Reuter.

MANAGUA, Dec. 17.—President Diaz has sent a message to the Nicaraguan Congress strongly deprecating Mexico's "interference and aggression," which he describes as inexplicable.—Reuter.

BRITISH AVIATION PERFORMANCE

From London to Bagdad in a "Moth"

Bagdad, Dec. 17.

The meritorious performance of flying from London in a couple of 26 H. P. Moth aeroplanes has been accomplished by Captain Stack and Mr. E. S. Leete. The two men each carried out the joint duties of pilot, navigator and mechanic. Local Air Force men are entertaining the airmen, who will resume their flight to India in a few days.—Reuter.

Flying Boat Service to Australia

London, Dec. 17.

With reference to a report that a fleet of flying-boats will fly from Singapore to Australia next summer it is stated at the Air Ministry that the project is being considered with the object of gaining further experience in the use of this type of aircraft. The flights would be purely service in character: nothing abnormal would be attempted. It is not proposed to commence the cruises before the early part of 1928.—Reuter.

CHRISTMAS TIME IN ENGLAND

Fashion of Spending Holiday at Seaside or Abroad

London, Dec. 21.

The feature of this Christmas, according to reports from the railway companies, is the great increase of bookings to seaside resorts. The practice of spending the winter festival at the seaside has been developing rapidly during the past eight or 10 years. The airways to the Continent are also experiencing what are described as phenomenal bookings. The services both to Paris and Germany are being augmented as far as is possible, and a whole fleet of air liners will be brought into use. It has become quite the fashion to send Christmas gifts to friends on the Continent "per Airway" and for the past two or three days the demand for freight has been heavy.

Dec. 21.

Snow fell in many places in England and Scotland to-day. The last snowy Christmas was in 1900.—Wireless through Reuter.

AN UNWANTED POLITICIAN

Communist M. P. Refused Indian Passport

London, Dec. 19.

The India Office has refused the application for a passport to India by Mr. Saklatvala, the Communist M. P. for Battersea.—Wireless through Reuter

TOWN DESTROYED IN EARTHQUAKE

Mountain Erupting in Columbia

Guayaquil, Ecuador, Dec. 20.

The town of Carlosama in Columbia was destroyed to-day in an earthquake. Mt. Cumbal is believed to be erupting.—Reuter

AMERICAN-PANAMA TREATY

Washington, Dec. 21.

The text of the treaty pending between Panama and the United States has been published. If ratified, Panama is bound to co-operate to its utmost to protect and defend the Canal and, if a conflict breaks out to consider itself a joint enemy with the United States.—Reuter.

AUSTRALIAN SUGAR CROP FORECAST

Brisbane, Dec. 21.

The Australian sugar crop is expected to total 420,000 tons.—Reuter.

TERRIBLE STORM AT MADEIRA

Much Destruction to Roadstead and in Funchal

Funchal, Madeira, Dec. 17.

A gale of most terrific violence occurred here on December 16 when enormous seas damaged shipping, affecting several coasters, 13 lighters and six motor-launches. A yacht sunk or was driven ashore and the owner, a woman friend and five of the crew were drowned. Only one person on board was saved. A rescuer was killed.

A sea wall damaged all cables and communications were interrupted. Telephone wires were swept down and roofs blown off from houses.—Reuter.

An Earthquake Follows

Lisbon, Dec. 18.

A great earthquake shock was experienced to-day in Lisbon and Madeira. It lasted three seconds. Considerable damage was done in Lisbon. Much alarm was caused but there were no casualties. No news has been received of the effects of the shock in Madeira.—Reuter.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR PETROL

Efficient at Great Height: Not So Good on Ground

Paris, Dec. 21.

A report on tests of the so-called "white spirit" petrol substitute, which is claimed to be non-inflammable in temperatures below 0 degrees Fahrenheit, was read by the experiment M. Dumanoir, before the Academy of Science to-day. M. Dumanoir claimed that it was possible to apply a match to the spirit without setting fire to it, and said that aeroplane experiments showed that the new spirit was superior to petrol at 9,000 feet though inferior at ground level from the point of view of maximum engine revolutions.—Reuter.

Petrol Prices Down in England

London, Dec. 20.

The chief brands of motor-spirit from the pump have been reduced by a half-penny a gallon everywhere, likewise from the can in London and the Metropolitan area, but can prices in outer London have been increased by a half-penny a gallon.

Note: The price of petrol through the pumps was reduced on November 1, by three-half-pence a gallon. Petrol supplied in cans was reduced similarly in London and the Home Counties and by a penny a gallon elsewhere.—Reuter.

REVOLUTIONARY STRIKE IN PORTUGAL

Movement on Railway Started by Extremists

London, Dec. 21.

Nothing further is known in Lisbon of the revolutionary strike on the Sulesuetic Railway. The movement was started by employees of advanced views, who tried to carry the whole of the staff with them. The movement is stated to have been suppressed. Owing to Government measures the papers have been censored.—Reuter.

AMERICAN TIN PURCHASE IN BOLIRIA

New York, Dec. 21.

An American banking group headed by Messrs. Lehman Brothers is understood to have purchased a substantial interest in the Patino Mines Enterprises Consolidated, Incorporated, which operates the largest tin mines in Bolivia. It is proposed to offer the public about 200,000 of the company's shares.—Reuter.

BUENOS Aires, Dec. 18.—The City Municipal Council has rejected the proposal of a British syndicate, headed by Lord Ampthill, to construct six new lines in Buenos Aires. —Reuter.

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ATTEMPT TO BOMB PERU'S PRESIDENT

Assassin's Head Blown Off by Unexpected Explosion

Lima, Peru, Dec. 21.

What the police surmise to have been an intended attempt on President Leguia's life had a ghastly conclusion. Investigations into a great explosion this morning on Main Square led to the discovery of the headless body of a man near a palm tree. The head itself was blown on to the steps of a cathedral.

Senor Leguia usually returns to the Palace about midnight, but he had not left his residence that night.

It appears that the dead man carried a bomb and, realising that his vigil was in vain, decided to bury it, but while he was doing so it exploded.—Reuter.

WATER DAMAGE ON DUTCH STEAMER

Port Said, Dec. 21.

It is possible that damage has been done to the cargo in No. 3 Hold of the Koninginder Nederlanden, voyaging from Batavia to Amsterdam, owing to a defective drainpipe below the waterline. The damage has been temporarily repaired and the steamer is proceeding.—Reuter.

U.S. ALIEN PROPERTY FUNDS

Official's Allegations of Mal-administration

New York, Dec. 20.

The New York "World" makes a feature of a special despatch from Washington to the effect that the Comptroller-General has reported to President Coolidge that Alien Property funds have been illegally drawn from the Treasury and that Administration expenses have been excessive, running to $5,009,000.—Reuter.

Washington, Dec. 20.

Senator Borah declared to-day that the report of the Comptroller-General has disclosed the worst system of looting ever known and predicted a Senate investigation after Christmas.—Reuter.

El Rio, Texas, Dec. 20:—Bandits to-day raided a British-owned ranch 90 miles south of the Mexican border. They have driven off several hundrd horses and thousands of cattle.—Reuter.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—New York is becoming acquainted with the latest Paris fashions a week earlier than formerly owing to the introduction of wireless transmissions of drawings.—Wireless through Reuter.

"DRYING" NEW YORK FOR CHRISTMAS

Prospects of Wet Holiday Clouded by Prohibition Officers' Work

New York, Dec. 22.

The prospects of a "wet" Christmas and "wetter" New Year were clouded last night when Federal prohibition officers swooped on Broadway and summoned the proprietors of 58 of the best-known restaurants and night-clubs to show cause why their establishments should not be padlocked for violating the Volstead Act. The proprietors, meanwhile, had been served with personal injunctions, contravention of which would mean a sentence of imprisonment.

Evidence in connexion with the activities had been gathered during the last three months by prohibition agents posing as idle sons of wealthy London widows, exiled Russian noblemen and Florida real estate promoters keeping late hours.—Reuter.

Large Raid Successful

Utica, N. Y. Dec. 22.

The largest raid ever carried out in New York State was made to-day by prohibition agents from Washington on an alcohol distilling plant three miles east of Rome, during which $100,000 worth of alcohol was confiscated.

No arrests were made.—Reuter.

COL. CARMI THOMPSON'S REPORT

Independence of Philippines Suggested Postponed

Washington, Dec. 22.

Colonel Carmi Thompson, former United States Treasurer, who spent some months in the Philippines surveying economic conditions on behalf of President Coolidge, has made his report, recommending postponement of the grant of absolute independence to the Islands but advocating concession of a further measure of autonomy in internal affairs as the situation warrants.

He also recommends extension of the Federal Reserve Bank system to the Philippines and the starting of a "Landbank" there to furnish farmers with loans at reasonable rates. He says that at present rates of ■ to 30 per cent. are charged.—Reuter.

SWEDEN'S NAVAL PROPOSALS

Ten Year Scheme for Expansion of Fleet

Stockholm, Dec. 22.

Naval expenditure of a hundred and five million kronen between 1923 and 1938 is advocated by the governmental committee appointed to draft the naval construction programme. The committee insists that Sweden must possess a fleet capable of defending the whole coastline.

It recommends a battleship of 7,600 tons, four destroyers, seven submarines, eight submarine chasers, a number of minelayers and an aircraft carrier with a capacity of 12 seaplanes.—Reuter.

FLIGHT TO MOUNTAIN TOP

Aviators' Landing on Helvellyn

London, Dec. 22.

Mr. John Leeming, Chairman of the Lancashire Aero Club, and Mr. Bert Hinckler, who flew in the Schneider Cup race, landed on the top of Helvellyn in an aeroplane this afternoon and made a safe return. Helvellyn, 3,100 feet high, is in the lake district on the border of Westmoreland and Cumberland and is one of the highest mountains in England. The flight was made with the object of demonstrating the safety of modern aeroplanes.—British Wireless through Reuter.

LATEST TELEGRAMS

THE GERMERSHEIM AFFAIR

Germany to Protest Against Findings of French Court Martial

Berlin, Dec. 22.

Germany is lodging a diplomatic protest against the Landau judgment through Herr von Hoesch, the German Ambassador at Paris, who has been instructed to point out the serious menace to friendly Franco-German relations and to demand a reopening of the case.—Reuter.

Paris Dec. 22.

The newspapers are not perturbed by the German indignation over the Landau court martial, which they contend rendered the only possible verdict after thorough sifting of the evidence in a confused series of events smacking more of a drunken brawl than anything.

They are of opinion that the German anger will prove a storm in a teacup and point out that the sentences pronounced on the Germans who did not face the court were heavier than those pronounced on the men who stood trial.

The organs of the Left alone are dissatisfied with the trial on the ground that the verdict does not accord with the Locarno spirit.

Note: The verdict of the court martial in connexion with the Germersheim affair of September 27, when two French soldiers "fraternised" with several Germans, acquitted the French Lieutenant Roeder and sentenced six Germans to various terms of imprisonment.—Reuter.

Potash Export Treaty

Paris, Dec. 23.

The "Excelsior" announces the imminent signing of a new Franco-German Treaty concerning the distribution of potash exports.—Havas.

FRENCH LOAN FROM HOLLAND

Issue to be Made on Behalf of French State Railway

Paris, Dec. 22.

"Le Journal Officiel" publishes a decree authorising the Minister of Finance to issue in Holland a loan of 27,000,000 Dutch florins in bonds of 1,000 florins each, at seven per cent. and redeemable between September 1, 1927, and March 1, 1962, for the requirements of the French State railways and in accordance with a contract concluded with a group of Dutch banks on December 17.—Reuter.

CENTRAL AMERICAN TROUBLES

U. S. War Vessel Sent to Honduras: Fighting in Nicaragua

Washington, Dec. 22.

The Secretary of the Navy has ordered a war vessel to proceed to La Ceiba, Honduras, in consequence of a report from the American Consul that disorders are threatened which are likely to endanger the life and property of foreigners.—Reuter.

Managua, Nicaragua, Dec. 22.

A seven-hour battle, which has not yet finished, is proceeding at Las Perlas between Conservative and Liberal troops. The latter attacked, supported by artillery and machine-guns, but the Conservatives claim to have driven them off with heavy machine-gun fire.—Reuter.

Inquiry Wanted in U. S.

Washington, Dec. 22.

The Senate has adopted a resolution proposed by Senator Moses directing the Foreign Relations Committee to inquire into American relations with General Diaz, President of Nicaragua, asking for all diplomatic correspondence between him and the Government in recent months. Specific information is desired in regard to the part played by Mexico in support of the Opposition movement in Nicaragua, headed by Dr. Sacasa, chief of the so-called Liberal Government established by the revolutionaries at Puerto Cabezas.—Reuter.

TILDEN TO REMAIN AMATEUR

Hope of Winning Back Lost Honours

New York, Dec. 22.

Because he wished to make an attempt to win back his lost honours, also to defend the Davis Cup once more, Tilden to-day turned down an opportunity to become a professional at Briar Cliff Lodge near Tarryton, New York, on a three-year contract of $20,000 annually. He indicated, however, that he would be glad to entertain a similar offer at the close of the next lawn tennis season.—Reuter.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22:—Congress has adjourned until January 3.—Reuter.

FROM THE FOUR WINDS

RESULTS OF THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE

Momentous Decisions Contained in Report Issued by Conference of Premiers: Status of Dominions as Separate Kingdoms Clearly Defined

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

London, Nov. 25.

Great interest is felt in the momentous decisions contained in the report, just issued of the Imperial Relations Committee of the Imperial Conference. This report represents the main achievement of the Conference. By it the unity of the Empire not only remains unimpaired, but is strengthened. There is no sign whatever of any tendency to disintegration.

The report contains a declaration that the Empire consists of absolutely free and equal self-governing nations, between whom there is no question of superior or inferior status. It is also stated that, in view of the different levels of development and the different circumstances of different parts of the Empire, any attempt at formulating a written Constitution would be unwise. "The British Empire is not founded upon negation. It depends essentially, if not formally, on positive ideals. Free institutions are its lifeblood; free co-operation is its instrument. Equality of status, so far as Britain and the Dominions are concerned, is thus the root principle governing our Inter-Imperial relations."

The Committee recommend that, subject to the King's approval, legislative action should be taken, so that His Majesty's title should read: "George V. by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India." The alteration consists in the word "and" being omitted in the phrase "Great Britain and Ireland." This alteration, it is explained, is rendered necessary by the altered state of affairs arising from the establishment of the Irish Free State as a Dominion.

The Question of Appeals

It is laid down in the report that Governors-General are representatives of the King, as Sovereign, and not of the British Government or of any department of it. It is further stated that the British Government has no wish for appeals to the Privy Council ■ remain obligatory in the case of the Dominions unless their people desire it. Any Dominion may do away with the appeal.

Any Dominion may enter into negotiations with foreign countries and concluded treaties with them in matters affecting the interests of that Dominion. Such treaties would be signed on behalf of the King by a plenipotentiary representing the Dominion in question. In the case of treaties affecting the whole Empire, the signature would be made by representatives of every self-governing part.

Where any action is to be taken affecting a particular Dominion, the King acts on the advice of his Ministry in that Dominion. He accepts this advice direct and not upon the advice of his British Ministry.

The Committee think that it should be placed on record that legislation by the Parliament at Westminster applying to a Dominion would only be passed with the consent of the Dominion concerned.

As there are points in the application of this general principle which requires examination, they recommend the setting up of a committee to report and make recommendations.

The report concludes by a statement that all the Dominions endorsed the Locarno Agreement.

Separate Kingdoms

All the papers approve the new changes and the only criticism—not very serious—came from Ulster. Most commentators have taken note of the disappearance of the term "United Kingdom" but no one seems to have noticed that "Imperial Parliament" and "Imperial Government" become equally obsolete. The fact of the United Kingdom disappeared when the Irish Free State was created; it has remained only in the King's title as defined by Parliament. That is now to go. One cannot recall that the term "Imperial Parliament" has ever had any such legal sanction, but for many years it has been generally applied to the Parliament at Westminster, both in the Dominions and at home. That august body now becomes merely His Majesty's Parliament in Great Britain, just as the Government in this country is specifically defined in the Report as "His Majesty's Government in Great Britain."

The Irish delegates to the Conference are reported to have expressed pleasure at the change because the King now becomes King of Ireland as distinct from his sovereignty of Great Britain. In effect, of course, all the Dominions are now recognized as separate Kingdoms, whatever their official nomenclature, with the common Crown as the only real legal bond.

It is interesting to recall that Canada, the first of the Dominions, would have borne the formal style of "the Kingdom of Canada" but for the conservatism of Whitehall. When the negotiations which preceded the passing of the British North America Act were taking place in London in 1867, Sir John Macdonald (the first Dominion Prime Minister) and the other Canadian delegates favoured that style, but were overborne by Lord Carnarvon, the then Colonial Secretary. The style of "Dominion" properly belongs only to Canada, Newfoundland, and New Zealand. It would be interesting to know why "Commonwealth" and "Union" were preferred in the cases of Australia and South Africa. The origin of "Irish Free State" is not a mystery.

End of Formal Control

The document marks the end of any kind of formal control by Great Britain over the Dominions. The British Empire becomes (presuming the report of course to be adopted by the various Governments, which will be the case), a Dual Monarchy like the former Austro-Hungarian, or more strictly speaking perhaps a Septuple Monarchy, the King forming the link between Great Britain, the Irish Free State, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Newfoundland, of each country he being the King. Of India he is of course the Emperor.

Incidentally a great deal more work may be thrown upon the King. The Governors-General in the various Dominions become his personal representatives, and as they will communicate directly with him instead of through the Dominions Office as heretofore, obviously more work will fall upon his shoulders. Since the Governors-General will become the King's personal representatives, there is no one therefore in the Dominion capitals now to represent with authority "his majesty's Government in Great Britain." It will lie with the Home Government to appoint a British High Commissioner in any given Dominion if it so wishes. One sequel of the situation in the creation of small diplomatic services by the King as King of Canada and King of the Irish Free State. The Irish Minister in Washington has already his credentials from the King without counter-signature from the Foreign Office. Under the arrangement in the report, his credentials will now be counter-signed by the Irish Free State Minister for External Affairs. A committee is to be set up on extraterritorial legislation. Cases have occurred where it has been impossible to prosecute persons for offences, such as bigamy, when the offending parties had com-

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mitted the offence in Britain and gone to live in a Dominion, or vice versa. The Committee will aim at creating a uniform law and uniform liability throughout the Empire, wherever this is possible. The declaration of congratulation to His Majesty's Government in Britain (a new phrase to which like "his Majesty's Government" we shall have to grow accustomed) on its share in Locarno will be deemed sufficient, and there will be no further ratification of the Locarno pacts by the Dominions.

Spirit of Mutual Good Will

"We have found in our deliberations a spirit of mutual good will and an earnest desire for co-operation in promoting the prosperity of the several parts of the Empire." This, a phrase in the loyal address sent by the members of the Imperial Conference to the King at the last meeting of the Conference on Monday, expresses the spirit of the meetings which have concluded. The Dominion Prime Ministers and others taking part of the Conference are highly satisfied with the work done. Perhaps the general atmosphere of the Conference is best summed up in the words of a Minister who has been present at every meeting and who gave this message: "Its spirit was the thing that struck me most about the whole Conference. I have attended all the Imperial Conferences since 1911, and on this occasion I detected a new spirit. One could not help feeling that the Empire had now reached a definite stage in the development. Up till now we have thought of the Empire as being the Mother Country, as a focus with the Dominions spread out at the end of lines on the map. From the atmosphere of this year's meeting it seems that this conception has changed, and that we must now think of the Empire as being a web, each part having a definite relationship to each other part. We have now the different parts of the Empire trading together and communicating direct. The practical results of the Conference have been considerable, but to my mind it is the spirit of understanding which has made itself an apparent that is most to be prized." The friendly spirit of the Conference was well indicated in the brief speeches which were made at the final meeting. Mr. Mackenzie King, the Premier of Canada, remarked that it must be acknowledged that the greatest achievement of the Conference was the evidence its proceedings had afforded of the common standard, the fundamental unity of purpose and ideals, and the desire to work out a sound basis for enduring co-operation which had marked all its deliberations. Mr. Bruce was of opinion that it was not too much ■ say that they had made an epoch-making advance. He felt that the status of the Dominions, ■ individual nations had been increased, while at the same time the prestige of the whole Empire had been considerably enhanced. General Hertzog said he left fully satisfied that whatever he wanted to have and to attain had been attained at the meetings of the Conference, and, what was more, it had been attained with the full co-operation and sympathy of all. Mr. Baldwin, in concluding the proceedings of the Conference, expressed the opinion that its work had been marked by as fine a spirit as that of any Conference that had ever met in this country.

BRITISH INDIA CO.'S STEAMERS

Old Vessels Rapidly Disappearing

The British India steamers that were so well known in Far Eastern waters in the 'eighties and 'nineties of the last century, all of which appeared to have a very distinct personality and quite a circle of friends, are now rapidly disappearing. Many of them have spent their last days under the Japanese flag, which is the case in the last ship to be dismantled for scrapping, the Katori Maru of Kobe.

She was built by Denny of Dumbarton as the Kerbela and was an iron screw steamer with two decks and a continuous double bottom which was then quite novel feature for a ship on the Indian coast, and with her tonnage of 1,937 and compound engines with cylinders 34 and 60 inches in diameter and a 42-inch stroke, was a very useful ship for her service.

This was originally to have been between London and Bombay, but she had not been long on that before she was transferred to the service between London and the Persian Gulf, later going on to the Coromandel-Rangoon run. In 1905 she and her sister, the Kangra, were bought by the Japanese to take advantage of the war boom, becoming the Katori Maru and Kuguwa Maru respectively.

She has changed hands several times since then and latterly has been employed entirely on the Japanese coasting trade, with spells laid up in one or other of their ports. She was to be seen in her old seas during the war, however, and there is no doubt that the voyage was a very profitable one to her owners.

A LETTER FROM PARIS

A Thunderous Welcome for the Prince of Wales: the Cite Universitaire

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Paris, Oct. 29.

The Prince of Wales, who has just come to Paris to open the Canadian House forming part of the new Cité Universitaire, is undoubtedly one of those foreign royalties in whom Parisians take an interest. So dense were the crowds in and around the Northern Railway terminus, when the train from Calais came in, that he could not leave the platform by the ordinary exit but had to be conducted out through the Customs offices. When he made his appearance in the courtyard, where the Ambassador's car was waiting for him, he was loudly cheered, and hundreds of French workgirls waved their handkerchiefs in sign of welcome. As a bachelor prince, he is naturally a centre of interest to the feminine portion of the population, and he also enjoys a sort of reflected popularity derived from his grandfather, the late King Edward who, to the French, was one of those personages whose character, and also whose failings, establish a bond of sympathy between royalty and ordinary mortals. Moreover, the present Prince knows France almost as well as his grandfather knew it, although it has yet to be proved that he has the same comprehension of the psychology of the French people. He has paid many visits to France since he came over for the first time in April 1912 to stay with the Marquis and Marquise de Breteuil, old friends of his grandfather and grandmother. Both before and after the war he has been in touch with prominent Frenchmen, and should he eventually fill the British throne he will be able to smooth away many of the difficulties arising from lack of mutual comprehension.

The Cité Universitaire

The Cité Universitaire, which the Prince is to visit to-morrow, is the result of a donation of Frs. 10,000,000, by a wealthy manufacturer, M. Deutsch de la Meurthe, who realized the difficulties which would face the young generation of students after the tremendous sacrifices made by France in the war. About the same time it occured to M. Honnorat (the father of "summer time" in France), who was then Minister of Public Instruction, that it would be an excellent thing to revive the foreign students' colleges which were grouped round the Sorbonne ■ the Middle Ages. He accordingly resolved to found what is now called the Cité Universitaire and to invite various foreign countries to build houses in the Cité for their own students. M. Honnorat applied to the City of Paris for part of the land which would become available through the removal of the old fortifications encircling the capital, and he obtained a grant of 70 acres near the Parc Montsouris at the part of the circumference nearest ■ the Sorbonne. The Canadian High Commissioner in France, who had thought of the same thing at the close of the war, hastened to obtain an option on a site adjoining the French buildings, and made an appeal to his countrymen for means to carry out the idea. Canada will be the first foreign country to open a house in the Cité Universitaire, thanks largely to the generosity of one Canadian, who has given about two-thirds of the money. The French students' hostel, consisting of 5 pavilions, which are more English than French in style, has been open more than a year. A stone's throw to the east, the Argentine students' building has already taken shape.

The Belgian Hostel

The Belgian hostel is well advanced. Other countries, such as the United States, Brazil and Holland, have taken options for sites on which to erect their own houses. England is about to make a move in the same direction by creating a British Institute comprising a house in the Cité Universitaire, and teaching departments in other parts of the City. A meeting with the object of putting the idea into practice and raising funds ■ to be held next week at the Mansion House.

In the course of four or five years the Cité Universitaire will be a community of about 3,000 foreign and 1,000 French students who will enjoy a common intellectual life under the most advantageous material conditions. The Cité will have its own playgrounds, co-operative restaurants, laundries and libraries. The Canadian hostel is a square three-storey building with two low wings above each of which is a pergola. It contains 45 bedrooms and dressing-rooms, a fine library and reading-room and a large hall. The house is not large enough to accommodate one-fifth of the number of young Canadians who study in Paris. It will no doubt be reserved for scholarship winners and other members of the scholastic élite, who, when they have settled down in various parts of Canada, will help to create an atmosphere of good understanding between the two races which make up the greater part of the population of the Dominion.

Explorer's House Explored

Dr. Charcot the Polar explorer, whose house at Neuilly, just outside Paris, was recently explored very thoroughly by burglars in his absence, has not allowed this misfortune to blunt his sense of humour. He has sent the newspapers the following communication: "As some papers have kindly given future burglarious visitors to my little house at Neuilly information as to what is still worth taking, and have also published circumstantial and substantially correct instructions as to the best way of getting in, I would ask them to extend their kindness a little further, so as to avoid disappointment to these gentlemen (burglars) and trouble and expenses of all kinds to myself. I certainly had a small fortune at one time, but my expeditions, recent missions of a national character, the war (in which I took part in spite of my age) and after-war taxation have wiped it out very thoroughly. Even my gold medals have been transmuted into paper and replaced by imitations. Consequently, these gentlemen will not be able to find any more money in my 'sumptuous residence' at Neuilly than in my 'chateau' at St. Servan. The little that is left to me—that is to say, just enough to pay my taxes—is in a bank. As for the rich collections brought back from my voyages, they consist of a rather moth-eaten stuffed penguin and a pair of Eskimo boots. Need I add that everything of value that escaped the last visit has now been transferred to a safe place? Under these circumstances, gentlemen, if you want anything, come and ask for it nicely and I will see what I can do, but do not frighten my wife and daughters, and don't come within reach of my fists, as I might hit you in a moment of forgetfulness. If you want a pair of shoes, I will give you one. It will certainly be better than the pair you took, because one of the shoes had a nail sticking up through the sole, which is painful, especially for anyone who wants to get away in a hurry."

"THE interest of the public in concerts, and especially in the Queen's Hall, has been aroused," said Mr. William Boosey recently regarding his announcement that he proposes to make a statement on the future of the Queen's Hall at the end of the present season. "We have received numerous indignant letters from music lovers," he continued. "The agitation which has been aroused is certain to have an effect, and it may be that at the end of the season the position will be much more rosy than at present."

OUTLOOK IN U.S.A. POLITICS

Nervousness Among All Parties: Uncertainty in Congress: Talk of Cotton Restriction

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

San Francisco, Nov. 26.

Greater political nervousness is said to exist at Washington than the nation has seen for several years. This refers mainly to issues in Congress, political in aspect but of very great importance to the country's commerce. Congress is now nominally under Republican control, but it is the opinion of writers in the capital that the succeeding Congress of 1927-8 "is apt to put the Republicans in a position of responsibility without complete authority." Thus the uncertainty of next year naturally communicates itself to the congressional session of this year, for what is not done now will be left over until then.

Some time ago I reported that the election of President had already started in a very real sense—at all events, there was a good deal of work being done throughout the summer in preparation for the campaign. And the presidential election campaigns of 1928 really start in the forthcoming session of Congress, and both parties are influenced by consideration of whether problems which might be settled now should not be put off until then, "to make political credit or blame fresher for the presidential elections," as Mr. W. M Kiplinger remarks in discussing the Government's effect upon business throughout the country.

Important Matters Pending

Nervousness is accentuated at the present time principally because of the fact of a marked lack of unanimity on the principal issues that now await determination at Washington. No one can foresee what may take place in many matters that must come up for settlement, but, while the country has to play a "wait-and-see" policy, there is sure to be concern over at least three great questions. At the present moment each one of these three questions is causing anxiety in both political and commercial life, and they may be placed in order of importance and the concern which they give as follows:

(a) Agriculture.—There is much to be done, but the principal source of concern immediately is the price of cotton, so that Congress will undoubtedly be keenly interested in seeking a political remedy for the economic condition of low prices of cotton.

(b) The Federal Reserve System.—It is said that if the Federal Reserve Board and system are not assured of continuity, then the stability of trust functions of national banks is threatened.

(c) Tariff Revision.—Little is expected of a definite nature, though many industries will have their representatives in Congress introduce bills to raise tariff schedules. But from what takes place the country will get a little foresight into legislative action threatened for the 1928 session.

So far as agriculture is concerned, the general opinion throughout the country, no matter in what section one may find himself, is that agriculture needs something, but so far as I can see there is no agreement as to what it needs. All the same, it is the most important problem before the country. Says one political writer: "Agriculture threatens to make or break parties in 1928. Low-priced wheat and corn in previous years, affecting the Republican West, made agriculture relief something of a family squabble within the Republican party. Now, however, low prices hit cotton, affecting the Democratic South, and south members of Congress are coming to Washington determined to do something about it."

What About Cotton?

The United States is now facing a situation in cotton which bears some relation to what rubber has been through. The only immediate political remedy is the creation of means by which the storage and carry-over of a surplus of the crop of this or future years may be financed. This may be done possibly by Government loans. Such a plan is embodied in the McNary-Haugen Bill, but whether this measure will go through is another matter.

It ■ also expected, according to the writer whom I quote above, that the "Government crop reporting system will be attacked by cotton growers' representatives in Congress on the ground that it inaccurately estimated the crop as too high, and was therefore responsible for the spectacular drop in prices." The crop reporting system has withstood previous attacks of this sort, however.

The following editorial comment from "The Nation's Business" gives the average American opinion on the cotton situation:

"Cotton has gone to 11 cents,—this is below the average cost of production. It means to the cotton farmer a lowered income. It means for the cotton community that the bank cannot expect the prompt payment of notes, that the merchant cannot expect the prompt payment of bills. It means to the business of the country that the buying power of the cotton states may be decreased by, it is variously estimated, from $200,000,000 to $350,000,000.

"The cotton grower wants a price for his product which is above the cost of production. Can he get it in the face of a more than 3,000,000 bale surplus? And if he can get it, how?

"There will ■ those who will appeal to Congress for direct aid. There will be those looking for political gain who will promise direct legislative aid. As a practical matter ■ fact, if those who offer direct Government aid through legislation can possibly deliver it—which is doubtful—there is no possibility of securing it in time to do the cotton farmer any good on this year's crop. For the great bulk of the cotton crop is picked and ginned between September 15 and December 15 and those who are in financial straits will have to sell as it is picked.

"One proposal is that the bankers of the South shall purchase and withdraw from the market three million bales of cotton, advancing to the seller 60 to 80 per cent. of the market value. Another proposal is that Agricultural Credit Corporations shall be established for the purpose of financing some such plan. The Intermediate Credit banks have over $500,000,000 available to lend. There are other proposals, each of them having some merit, but the success of each plan rests on one proviso. Can the farmer guarantee that he will reduce the acreage of his cotton planting next year?"

It looks as if restriction is generally regarded as the only effective means of safeguarding the industry for the next year or two, and if this is done American will, of course, be doing what she has all along condemned in others. However, we shall see what we shall see.

The Federal Banking Reserve

The time is due for the re-chartering of the Federal Reserve system. What will happen cannot be predicted with certainty, though one cannot believe that the System will not continue. It is claimed in business generally that the F. R. S. has placed the commerce of the country on a foundation which is unassailable by any booms or bursts, and that without it the even keel that ■ has been the means of introducing largely through the nation will disappear. To the business man, its primary virtue is that the Federal Reserve pools credit resources without creating a credit monopoly. Its strength is the strength of a system making for efficient organization of all banks. The System is to business, as a prominent business man says, "much the same as the service of supply is to an army on campaign." It keeps essential supplies on the move. It brings them in quantities needed, where they are needed and when they are needed. As an army is doomed if anything goes wrong with supplies, so with American business ■ the Federal Reserve System is abolished. Several slumps might have occurred in various parts of the country had the system not come to the aid of individual member banks. Pooling liquid credit is always wise, and it seems reasonably safe to prophesy that no change will be made in the System. But in this country, politics form the most unstable element of life, and one never knows.—hence the present political nervousness.

In spite of the continued warm weather, the villages in the Carpathians are suffering considerable damage from wolves. A peculiar episode occurred a few days ago in the Zurja Valley, where for weeks wolves have been attacking the horses at grass in the meadows of Janos Koral. Seeing an old wolf come to attack the foals, the two men in charge of the horses took flight, but a stallion in the herd rushed to the rescue with heels and teeth and a desperate fight ensued. Eventually the horse was able to fasten his teenth in the wolf's neck and, dragging the stunned beast along with him, galloped through the woods to the farm, where he dropped his enemy at the feet of his master.

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OPIUM IN CHINA AND INDIA

East India Company Drops the Trade as Being Beneath Its Dignity: Result an Increase in Free Trade and Great Damage to the Chinese People

The following instalment concludes the lecture delivered by Sir Richard Dane, formerly head of the Salt Gabelle, before the East India Association in London, proving that so far from Britain being responsible for bringing the drug to China, the trade was in progress in the sixteenth century.

The East Indian Company and the Government of India were willing and, indeed, anxious that some of the opium produced should find its way to China, but except on one occasion, in 1781-82, they did not take any part in the trade; and the opium was sold at Calcutta by public auction for export either to the Malay Archipelago or to China by private merchants. In 1781-82, when the Eastern seas were full of French and Dutch privateers and difficulty was experienced in disposing of the opium, Hastings did send a ship to China with 1,601 chests of opium for sale on the Company's account; and another ship was sent to the Archipelago. This venture formed another of the articles in Hasting's impeachment, the charge being that for the purpose of advancing money to the opium contractor, and in ordered to favour certain individuals, a loan was raised and the Company was engaged in a smuggling venture with China. The venture was not very successful, and was condemned by the Court of Directors on the ground that it was beneath the dignity of the Company to be engaged in an illicit trade. The export in future of opium to China for sale on the Company's account was therefore strictly prohibited. It is noteworthy that the super-cargoes in Canton reported in regard to this venture that the demand in China had been adequately met by opium imported by the Portuguese at Macao, and the Chinese merchant who purchased the opium announced his intention of re-exporting a great part of it to the Malay Archipelago.

Unsuccessful Control

The Malwa opium trade was, as I have shown, much older than the Bengal trade, but for 30 years after the establishment of the monopoly the Government in Bengal does not appear to have been aware of its existence. In 1803 the Government of Bombay was asked to check the trade, but the measures taken were ineffectual. The opium was produced in the Native States in Central India and Rajputana, the Portuguese ports of Diu and Daman were open to the trade, and Sind was at this time independent territory. The opium was taken from Malwa to Karachi and from Karachi to Diu and Daman, and from there it was exported to China. By 1818 law and order had been restored in Malwa after the Pindari War, and the opium industry developed rapidly. In 1820-21 the Government of India attempted to control the market by purchasing in Malwa the opium produced there for the export trade, but this modified monopoly (as it was called) did not prevent the expansion of the Malwa industry. In 1824, therefore, a policy of restricting the production with the consent of the Native States was decided on. Treaties were negotiated with the Rulers of producing States, which provided for the sale to the British Government of the estimated surplus production of their dominions over and above the amount required for local consumption, and the opium thus purchase was sold by auction for export. Treaties also were negotiated with Udaipur and other States, by which they undertook, for a cash payment, to prevent the transit of opium through their territory. The important producing states of Gwalior and Bhopal, however, declined to enter into any engagements, and the Transit Treaties failed to close the road to Karachi. Serious smuggling affrays occurred; and in 1827, the policy adopted was sharply criticized by Sir C. Metcalfe, who was then Political Resident at Delhi. The Treaties were said to have been procured by "an improper exercise of our irresistible political influence," and to be "detrimental alike to the people and the Princes." In 1828 he again, as Member of Council, attacked the Treaties; and, in 1829, Lord William Bentinck, who was then Governor General, decided that "paramount considerations of justice and good faith" necessitated the abandonment of the attempt to interfere with the production and export of Malwa opium. The Treaties were abrogated; the export of Malwa opium from Bombay was permitted on payment of a duty; and to meet the competition of Malwa the restrictive policy, which had been in force in Bengal for nearly 60 years, was abandoned, poppy cultivation was extended, and the number of chests of opium offered for sale at Calcutta was steadily increased.

Evils of Free Trade

The East India Company's monopoly of the China trade was withdrawn 1834; all British subjects were left without control; and the free traders, many of whom were lawless men, carried the increased quantity of opium thus made available to China in open defiance of Chinese regulations. The opium trade, however, though it was the most important cause, was by no means the only cause of the war of 1839-42.

For many years opium was on the Chinese Customs Tariff at Canton and was admitted as foreign medicine on payment of a duty, but there is evidence that it was treated as contraband as early as 1764. It appears, however, from Chinese records, that it was contraband merely because it was not included among the articles in which foreign commerce was permitted, and that its importation into Canton, which was the only port open to foreign trade, was not formally prohibited until the first or the fourth year of the Emperor Keaking, A.D. 1796 or 1799. An edict prohibiting opium smoking in Formosa and the vicinity appears to have been issued as early as 1729, but it is clear from Chinese records that this prohibition did not apply to Canton.

China's Native Growth

Opium does not appear to have been known and used in China as early as in India, but Chinese works, referred to in a valuable Historical Note on opium by Dr. Edkins, of the Chinese Customs Service, which was published in 1889, show that the seeds of the poppy were used for medicinal purposes as early as A.D. 973, in the time of the Tang dynasty. The first actual reference to opium, however, which has been discovered is in a work by Wang Hsi, who died in 1468, in the time of the Ming dynasty. Wang Hsi was for 20 years in charge of the north-west frontier province of Kansu, and the knowledge of opium appears to have reached Kansu from Central Asia. Wang Hsi describes the method of extracting opium, and refers to the value of the drug for treatment of dysentery.

The principal opium-producing provinces in China are Yunnan, Szechuan, and Kweichow in the west and Kansu and Shensi in the north-west, and it is in these provinces that the use and abuse of opium are said to have been most prevalent. It is a most noteworthy fact that Indian opium does not appear to have found its way into these provinces at any time, except possibly in small quantities for the personal use of the importers. From statistics of the imports of foreign opium into China from 1863 to 1906, which were supplied by the Chinese delegates to the International Opium Commission, it appears that the total number of chests taken inland from the coast as far as Ichang, in the province of Hupeh in Mid-China, in 21 years, was 16 only; and that in the 18 years ending with 1906 one chest of foreign opium was taken to Chungking in Szechuan in 1894, one in 1906, and one in 1907.

Domestic Production

The British Consul at Chungking in a report dated April 25, 1881, on the cultivation of the poppy and the use of opium in Szechuan, said: "There appears to be absolutely no genuine Indian opium consumed in Szechuan, unless it be that an official now and again brings a ball with him from Hankow." In a report on opium in West China, which was submitted in the same year the quantity of Indian opium only consumed in Szechuan was estimated by Mr. Spence at 70 piculs (about 70 chests). If Indian opium was only consumed to this trifling extent in Szechuan, to which province there is a well-established trade route by the Yangtze river, it is clear that in the other western provinces, where there are no facilities for transportation, Indian opium must have been unknown. Even into Shansi, the province adjoining on the west the metropolitan province of Chihli, Indian opium does not appear to have ever been imported. The cultivation of the poppy in Yunnan in particular appears to be of long standing, and as the cultivation in Szechuan is said to be of more recent date, the knowledge of the drug appears to have been brought to the province through Burma. Dr. Edkins tells us that in a Chinese history of Yunnan, which was published in 1736, opium was said to be a common product of Yungchangfu, a district in the west of the province; and the extent to which the poppy was cultivated in the Shan States and the tribal country on the Yunnan-Burma border supports the view that the Yunnan cultivation had a south-western origin. The Chinese delegates to the International Commission mentioned the fact that to this day locally produced opium is known in Yunnan as *fu-yung*, an obvious reproduction of the Persian *afyun*; while in the maritime provinces the Chinese name for opium is *yapien*. In 1836 Chu Tsun, a Yunnanese and a member of the Imperial Inner Council, said, in a minute written in opposition to the proposal then under consideration for the legalization of the foreign opium trade, that Yunnan the poppy was "cultivated all over the hills and the open country, and that the quantity of opium annually produced could not be less than several thousand chests."

The climate of South China is like the climate of Bengal, hot and damp. In Kwangtung, the south-east of Kwangsi, Kiangsi, and the east of Hunan there does not appear to have ever been any large production of opium, and what was produced was probably very inferior. The East India Company tried to produce opium in Lower Bengal, but the product was so bad that the attempt was abandoned. The great demand for opium, which arose in China at the end of the 18th century, was the result of the invention, apparently by a Chinese, of the method of smoking in a special opium pipe a prepared extract of pure opium. In the Historical Note, which was submitted to the International Commission by the Chinese delegates, it is said: "There is no record to show when opium was first smoked by itself, but it is thought to have originated about the end of the 18th century, and to have coincided with the edict of 1796 prohibiting the importation of all opium." This appears to be correct. The edict refers to the preparation of an extract from opium, so that the modern form of the habit was evidently then known. When the great demand arose, Indian and other foreign opium was imported at Canton and native opium was produced in West China. The demand in the east of China was met by an increase in the import of Indian opium for much the same reason that salt is carried by sea from European countries to Calcutta. The Indian opium was better and was probably also much cheaper owing to the greater facilities for its transportation. The superior quality of the Indian opium doubtless assisted it in the competition, but the preference shown for it appears to have been exaggerated.

Mainly a Bogey

The areas of consumption of Indian and Chinese opium appear throughout to have been well defined and to have been determined mainly by the ordinary operations of commerce and by the facility of transport from the place of production. The foreign opium area included some of the richest parts of China; and it was in this area that foreigners were prominent. This made foreign opium more conspicuous and also in Chinese eyes more objectionable. By Chinese, inimical to foreigners and unacquainted with their own western provinces, the charge that opium had been introduced by the foreign traders would, therefore, naturally be made.

It is possible that opium, without the admixture of other ingredients, was first smoked in East China, and if this was the case, the inventor probably used foreign opium. But this is the full extent of the responsibility of foreign opium for the evils which have resulted from the use and abuse of the drug in the western half of China.

Now Grown in Most Provinces

So far was the speech of Sir Richard which had been committed to type, but he added some remarks. He said that by the beginning of 1915 the production of opium in China had been reduced to very small proportions, but soon afterwards there come a departure In fact, if not in declared policy, in China. At present the poppy was grown in every province in China in which opium could be profitably produced, and China was said to be growing more opium than any country in the world. Though there was large consumption there, he said he doubted whether there was any Briton who was not glad that the export to China of Indian opium had been discontinued. If the Chinese would not give up opium it was better that they should get nothing but produce of their own country.

Lord Meston, who was in the chair, said that the reaction following on the wave of enthusiasm in China for opium suppression represented the failure of a great nation to put its own house in order. One consequence of the reaction was the way in which attempts had been made to cast the blame upon India and the Indian Government. At International Conferences at Geneva on dangerous drugs the manner in which certain United States delegates, from the aurora of their vicarious sacrifices, tossed aside the heavy sacrifices of the Indian Government and the Indian peasantry was contemptible to a degree. It could only be assumed that their attitude did not represent the volume of the better sense of the American people. He thought it would be an excellent thing if Sir Richard Dane's paper could find publicity in America. It would help to remove certain perfectly unjust and baseless prejudices which our friends across the Atlantic were quite unwittingly accumulating against us to-day.

COMMONS' INTEREST IN CHINA

Questions and Answers Covering Various Phases of the Situation

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

London, Nov. 25.

China keeps in the limelight as much as ever but the only official announcement outside the House was made this week by Sir William Joynson Hicks the Home Secretary at High Wycombe:—

"In reference to China, the Government must maintain the high position of Great Britain in regard to affairs in that great Empire. China has always been an ally of this country, and I want you to realize altogether apart from party politics that the position in China is one of great anxiety to us as a Government. I am quite sure that any decision the Government has to make—and we had to take one the other day in regard to piracy on a British ship—will be taken in the interests of the British Empire as a whole."

Meantime the daily papers publish columns about what is happening in China, from which we gather that the Northern Militarists are now uniting to see if they cannot stop the advance of the Cantonese, while the latter are endeavouring to oust officials of foreign extraction from all the positions in the Customs along the Yangtze. Undoubtedly the Foreign Office is sitting tight and doing nothing. It is not likely to recognize the Cantonese at present, though it knows perfectly well that they are the most effective military party in China at present. If, however, we once begin to recognize ephemeral movements, then no one can say where we are likely to stop. If the Cantonese get to Peking, the position may be altered, but as it is, British diplomacy prefers to sit tight. At the same time I very much doubt whether there is any international action likely with respect to the denunciation by China of what are called the Unequal Treaties. Probably as the Powers stand individually in different positions with respect to China, each of them will act alone. I can, however, go as far as saying that if there were a reliable Government in Peking, the British Government would be prepared to take up with it the complete revision Sino-British Treaties. It is, therefore, unfortunate for everybody that the Chinese are not in a position to take advantage of British goodwill.

I append the questions and answers this week in Parliament:—

The Wanhsien Incident

Mr. Trevelyan asked the Prime Minister whether the instructions to use force at Wanhsien were issued by the Admiralty or by the Foreign Office; and whether His Majesty's Minister at Peking was consulted.

Mr. Locker-Lampson: The instructions to use force as a last resource were approved by His Majesty's Government and issued simultaneously by the Foreign Office to His Majesty's at Peking and by the Admiralty to the Commander in Chief, China. His Majesty's Government were in touch and complete agreement with Sir R. Macleay.

The Safety of Hankow

Mr. Somerville asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether there is a sufficient naval force at Hankow to ensure the safety of British residents there in case of need.

Sir Austen Chamberlain: The disposition of the naval forces in China is made by the Commander in Chief, who is in close touch with His Majesty's Minister at Peking, and the local Consular officers. It is considered that the force at the disposal of the Commander in Chief is sufficient to ensure the safety of British residents.

The Boxer Indemnity

Mr. Livingstone asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs when the report of Lord Willingdon's Committee on the allocation of the Boxer Indemnity was received; whether the Report has yet been issued; and, if not, what is the reason for the delay.

Sir A. Chamberlain: The report of the Willingdon Delegation was received by the Statutory Committee in July last; it will be issued very shortly, together with the report of the Statutory Committee. It had to be carefully considered by the Committee before publication, and there has been no unreasonable delay.

The Sunning Piracy

Captain Fairfax asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can say what the circumstances were in which the British ship Sunning was seized by Chinese pirates at Swatow; whether any Englishwoman was taken as a hostage; and, if so, what steps he has taken or will take in the matter to secure protection for British shipping and passengers.

Sir Austen Chamberlain: The steamship Sunning, en route from Amoy to Hongkong, was attacked at 6 p.m. on November 15 by pirates, who had got on board at Shanghai and Amoy disguised as passengers, their total number being 20 to 30. It appears that the guards were on duty but that the starboard grille was open and the ship's officers were not carrying their arms at the time of the attack. The pirates were in control of the ship until 1 a.m. on November 16 when the officers, by a sudden attack, overpowered the pirate guard on the bridge and released the other officers and passengers. They they held the bridge deck against the attack of the pirates. The pirates then set fire to the ship. The captain let go an anchor and swung the ship so as to send the smoke and fire aft, whereupon some of the pirates abandoned the ship in two dinghies. His Majesty's ship Bluebell arrived at 5.30 a.m. on November 16 and put an armed guard on board, 22 of the pirates were captured and four are known to have been killed. The chief engineer (British) of the Sunning was wounded and one male passenger is missing. There is no truth in the report that one or more European women were taken by the pirates as hostages. The question of measures to be taken in connexion with these piracies is being carefully considered.

Captain Fairfax: Is it not a fact that these incidents, Chinese attacks on British shipping, have become increasingly frequent, and can the right hon. gentleman say whether this was an attack by pirates and not an organized Chinese authority.

Sir A. Chamberlain: This is undoubtedly an act of piracy by pirates. It is not to be confused with any action by the Chinese Government. Unhappily these acts of piracy have been frequent.

Sir Harry Brittain: Can the right hon. gentleman say whether these men are still in custody.

Sir A. Chamberlain: Oh, yes.

PROFESSOR Irving Fisher, of the Economics Department in Yale University, pointed out recently that the grain formerly used in the United States for beer, if turned into flour and bread, is the equivalent of 11,000,000 loaves a day. At ten cents a loaf, the saving in this item is estimated at over $40,000,000 a year.

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OUR AMERICAN LETTER

Are Hindus of White Origin?—An Immigration Case: Italian Seaplane Victory: 500 U.S. Ships in Foreign Commerce: Indian Attorney's Affairs

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

San Francisco, Nov. 18.

The Hindu is essentially a white person, so it is officially inferred here, and is consequently entitled to American citizenship. This is the view expressed by Dr. Hrdlicka, curator of the division of physical anthropology of the National Museum, who is recognized as an international authority on racial classifications. The learned doctor was recently asked to comment on the decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals at San Francisco, upholding the ruling of a lower court in granting citizenship to Sajharam Ganesh Pandit, a Hindu attorney of Los Angeles. This Mr. Pandit is known to this writer. Recently in the home of one of the prominent citizens of San Francisco, I met him and discussed his case at some length. The decision had not then been given, but, seeing that he had been given full American citizenship many years before the present law came into effect, he was of the opinion, he told me, that he would win his case, though he did not think that it could be regarded as a test case for the whole Hindu question, for he concurred in the belief that Hindus are not white persons.

But Dr. Hrdlicka now says that fully four-fifths of Hindus are of white origin, and he officially adds that members of this race cannot properly be denied admission to this country under the exclusion section of the Immigration Law, "because they cannot be classed with the Chinese, Japanese and other yellow-brown races."

So far as I can see, it appears that the Naturalization Bureau will carry this Pandit case directly to the Supreme Court, though the Commissioner has said that before reaching an definite decision, he will await the receipt of a report from the San Francisco naturalization office.

So far as Mr. Pandit is himself concerned, it works a grave injustice upon him. He has been in this country for nearly 30 years, became a citizen about 20 years ago, married an American woman, has children who are registered American citizens, possesses a considerable amount of real property in Los Angeles and elsewhere, and has rightly regarded himself as a full-fledged American for the reason that he was given full citizenship many years ago. If it is now determined that he is not a "free white person" he is subject to deportation, and most of the property he holds will, I believe, be liable to confiscation. It is a case upon which much will be decided in the future.

The Great Seaplane Race

Americans interested in seaplane sport are annoyed that the Italian ace won the speed record a few days ago. On November 13 there was held at Hampton Roads Naval Base at Norfolk, Va., the Jacquues Schneider international seaplane race, when Major Mario de Bernardi went round the 31-mile triangular course seven times at an average speed of 246.24 miles an hour in his Macchi-Fiat monoplane, completely outspeeding the three American biplanes. Bernardi thus set a world record for seaplanes over a 360 kilometre (about 217 miles) course. The late Lieut. James H. Doolittle, U.S. Army, set the former world record at Baltimore last year at 284 miles per hour. Bernardi's speed at the end of each lap, calculated cumulatively, after each lap, to include the entire race up to that point was announced as follows: 234.4, 243.1, 244.9, 245.4, 245.9, 243.6, 246.4.

The Italian victory prevented the United States from retaining permanent possession of the Schneider cup. The rules of the race give the trophy permanently to the nation winning in three out of five years, and the American navy had already won two legs upon it. Lieut. C. F. Schildt, U. S. Marine Corps, won second place for the United States with an average speed of 231 miles per hour. He flew the plane in which Doolittle won the cup at Baltimore last year. Third place was won by an Italian named Adriano Bauculi, at 218 miles per hour.

Next year's race will, therefore, be all the more exciting, for already it is being loudly proclaimed that the U. S. men will wrest the trophy from the victorious Italians.

500 U. S. Ships In Foreign Commerce.

The United States Shipping Board announces that there are at present nearly 500 general cargo vessels employed in foreign commerce, which will doubtless come as a surprise in foreign shipping circles. More than 60 of the ships, it is stated, were cut out of the reserve fleet and put into commission in the month of October.

In the statement issued, it is announced it is announced that the United States "is now experiencing a practical demonstration of the inestimable value of an adequate American merchant marine." Many of the foreign vessels, it is explained, which usually carry a large part of American cargo, are now employed in hauling coal to Great Britain and European ports to supply the deficiency due to the strike of British coal-miners, and the present privately-owned American merchant fleet "can handle only a small part of the resulting congestion of other cargo tonnage destined to foreign markets." Fortunately the great reserve fleet of the United States Board is available, and the Board, "recognizing the urgent necessities of the situation, has transferred upwards of [illegible] vessels of this fleet to active service for use in carrying the tremendous volume of products accumulating at our sea ports."

The current report of the Bureau of Research, U. S. Shipping Board, on the status and employment of American sea-going merchant vessels at October 1 last, showed that 431 American general cargo carriers were employed in foreign commerce on that date as against only 39 on July 1. I have no means at hand of verifying these figures, but from a report in a current shipping journal it is stated, moreover, that the American merchant fleet of ocean-going steam and motor vessels of 1,000 gross tons and over included, on October 1, 2130 vessels of an aggregate gross tonnage of 10,646,764 tons. One thousand two hundred and fifteen of these vessels, of 5,847,776 gross tons, were private-ly owned, and 915 vessels of 4,798,-988 tons were government-owned.

During the present week the U. S. Fleet Corporation is scheduled to make recommendations to the Shipping Board which are said to have an important bearing upon American shipping generally. Already this year, through lack of sufficient American space, charter rates for farm products across the Atlantic have advanced sharply. Each cent additional charged for the transporting of a bushel of wheat to Europe naturally means a cent out of the pocket of the farmer. In the last few years shipments have averaged between 175,000,000 and 180,000,000 bushels, and it is pointed out that when foreign ships carry American products the amount paid to the foreign ships acts as a rebate on the purchase price of the goods. The object of the sale of vessels involved by the Shipping Board is to "provide an American merchant marine which will not only carry American goods in American bottoms, but which can act as a check on the advance of rates by foreign shipping."

The policy employed by the most successful British operators of steamship companies is to maintain a liner service which will be attractive and enable travellers to patronize the same line in either direction, and for this three ships of approximately the same size are necessary. For example, the White Star has the Majestic, the Olympic and the Homeric and the Cunard Line the Aquitania, the Mauretania and the Berengeria. The Leviathan, however, has no sister ships which can be used economically with her.

This fact, it is believed, is behind the J. P. Winchester Company proposal to build two $15,000,000 express liners with the aid of the Government through the construction plan fund authorized under the Merchant Marine Act of 1920.

THE PROBLEM OF EDUCATION IN CHINA

Overcoming the Language Difficulty: London Professor on Headway Being Made

Professor P. M. Roxby, lecturing [illegible] the Liverpool Education Research Society at the University, on "The Problem of Education in China," deplored the fact that the majority of Englishmen were only aware of one aspect of modern China—her civil wars and political anarchy. Among many really constructive forces, of which little was heard, none was more interesting and ultimately more significant than the educational movement which, in spite of the handicaps of militarism and political chaos, had made remarkable progress.

The lecturer dealt first with the place of education in the traditional civilization of China, and emphasized the deep-rooted Chinese respect for learning. He pointed out how radically the old system had to be altered if China was to hold its own in the modern world, and discussed the difficulties involved in the introduction of Western science and social subjects, such as economics, and more particularly in the development of mass education as distinct from the training of a limited number of scholars.

Here the language difficulty was supreme, but it was being successfully attacked in three ways:—By substituting the vernacular, or, as it was coming to be called, the "National" language, for the old classical language as the medium for writing books on modern subjects; by the adoption of the "Thousand Characters" scheme for text-books used by primary students, who now numbered nearly seven million; and by the introduction of "Mandarin," the official language, into all schools, so that China might have a common "lingua franca" essential to her ultimate consolidation. In this and in other ways the movement known as "The Chinese Renaissance," which derived its inspiration from the National University of Peking, was having an immense influence.

Professor Roxby concluded by emphasizing the paramount importance of education in the turbulent period of transition through which China was passing, and pleaded for a sympathetic understanding between the British Universities and the leaders of the educational movement in China as one of the factors on which the future relations between Britain and China would depend. "Once enlist the friendship of those who are moulding the student world of China," he said, "and you are well on the way to securing the good will of the Chinese people."

A VERDICT of Accidental Death was recorded at a Lewisham inquest on Gilbert Henry Bromley, aged 17, Knight's-hill, West Norwood, who crashed into the rear of a horse van while motor-cycling. Kitty Irene Paul, a West Dulwich girl, who was riding on the pillion, said that she looked over Bromley's shoulder and first saw the van when they were about three yards away. She did not see any light at the back of the van.

Evidence was given that there was a light showing white ahead and red at the rear on the offside of the van.

FOREIGNERS often get irritated with Senator Borah and "abstain even from good words" at his expense. But his own countrymen are quite sharp enough about him. "Few minds can function as accurately and nobly in a world of unrealities as can Senator Borah's," says the New York "Herald Tribune." "With the pious emotions expressed by the Senator everyone will sympathize. This country has always, as he has recognized, done its utmost to protect China from exploitation and encourage her development as a self-governing unit. But how can anyone ignore the fact that the greatest difficulty with China to-day is not the foreigners, but the Chinese? Senator Borah speaks as if there were a Chinese nation in existence or coming into existence. There is, as anyone familiar with the facts knows, no such unit and small promise of its arrival. China is governed or misgoverned by an assorted group of generals and bandits." Rather a case of killing two birds with one stone.

OUR CANADIAN LETTER

Canada Congratulating Herself on Freedom from Bandit Hold-Ups: Strange Variety of Weather Provided by November: Professional Sport Question

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Westmount, Ont., Nov. 19.

Canada has been congratulating herself that the epidemic of sensational bandit holdups which has became so prevalent in the United States was not showing much tendency to spread to this country. It is true that there have not been many of these crimes in Canada, but we are not entirely free from them. A few weeks ago the manager of an uptown theatre was robbed late in the evening of the entire contents of his till and up to the moment of writing no trace of the robbers has been found. Just this week a similar attempt was made by three men at a West End drug store. The coolness and bravery of the drug clerk and the inexperience of the bandits resulted in the failure of the attempt to rob the store, but the attempt was made and no doubt unless such bandits are caught and severely punished this sort of crime will tend to increase.

Variety of Weather

Up to the present, November has provided an unfailing variety of weather conditions. The present week has been almost like September weather, and one day the thermometer rose to 66 degrees. The variability has naturally caused an unusual number of colds because people are puzzled to know what to wear, or not to wear, under such conditions. The daily papers today report severe storms in the West and as this probably means colder weather here. Montrealers are preparing for a snowy day for the biggest rugby game of the season to-morrow when McGill meets the University of Toronto in the semi-final of the Intercollegiate playoff. The winner of this game will play Queens in Toronto next Saturday for the title.

Rugby and Hockey

This year the rugby and hockey seasons have overlapped due to the late finish of the Intercollegiate season. A crowd of 8,500 turned out to see the first professional hockey game in Montreal last night, and this gives some indication of the interest in the game, and in professional sport. It is a matter for great satisfaction to most Canadians that professional sport has been kept out of our schools and universities, at least to a very large extent. At the present time nearly every branch of spot in American universities has become professionalized. The players are not paid salaries but the system of arranging these matters has now become so common that no doubt many colleges where sport is organized in the usual way would resent any charge of professionalism. But from our point of view it is professional sport and we are glad that we have no such system in Canada. There are of course variations in the way that things are done in different colleges, but in a general way the same method is used. Every college has scouts in a given area to look out for likely boys in the schools, boys who excel in some branch of athletics. These boys are then invited to university functions, entertained by fraternities, and promised the means of defraying their expenses while at college, if not actually offered "scholarships." They are not expected to devote any more time to their studies than what is barely sufficient to pass their examinations. Their chief interest in college is sport, and that is what they attend for. Quite apart from the harmful effects on athletics in universities, where high standards should be maintained, the attitude to the basis for a liberal education which results is much to be deplored.

New Type Tramcar

About a month ago a new type of street car was introduced by the Montreal Tramways Company. These cars are known as the one man cars, because they only require one man to operate them. The usual practise in Canadian cities has been to have two man street cars. The introduction of the one man car of course intended to cut down the cost of labour, and according to the Company, to give the citizens a more frequent service. Since the new service has been introduced on some lines there have been numerous complaints from different public bodies, including the city council. Various reasons have been brought forward in support of the complaints, but although some of the charges are valid, it would seem that they arise largely from the natural opposition of most people to any innovation, and the failure of passengers to do their share of co-operating with the servants of the company to make the system work. The Tramways Company is also operating several lines of motor buses which run between important points in the east and west sections of the city. During most of the day these are filled to capacity, and a new regulation forbids the drivers to allow anyone to stand up. The fare on the motor buses is eight and a third cents, or three tickets for 25 cents, while on the street cars tickets are four for 25 cents. Up to the present no regional fares have been adopted and one may ride anywhere from half a mile to over ten miles for the same fare.

Telephone Co. Criticized

The Bell Telephone Co. of Canada is another public service corporation which is coming in for its share of criticism these days. This has resulted from a proposal by the company to increase the rates to subscribers on account of increased operating charges and the necessity for capital expenditure on plant and equipment. Before the new rates can be imposed the company has to make good its case before several Dominion Commissions and hearings have been taking place in different cities. At present the work is being done in Ottawa where the permission of the Railway Commission is being sought. High officers of the company and assessors are being cross examined by the counsel for the government board, Col. Geary. The Bell Co. officials are being put through a searching test and have been asked to answer some difficult questions. The methods of big corporations in the conducting of big business are being examined very closely and to the man on the street it is bewildering to contemplate the intricate maze of corporation methods of doing business and making estimates. The crux of the matter lies in this point—the Bell Company must prove that it is going to cost more in the future to render the same service to the consumers. This they are having a hard time to show.

Imperial Conference Suspect

The Imperial Conference has been having reports from the Forestry Commission at recent meetings and the information given out, as far as Canada is concerned, is not very cheerful for us to contemplate. According to the estimates of experts, there is only enough soft wood in Canada to supply the needs of present markets for about 25 years. Of the original forest there is only about 27 per cent. left in Canada. When we think of the rapid rate at which the lumber is being cut and of the annual loss by forest fires, it is hard to be very optimistic about the future. It is not always safe to rely entirely on statistics, but in this case it is certainly true that the supply of soft wood is being cut at a very rapid rate and that adequate measures for reforestation have not yet been seriously considered. It is to be hoped that the government will take measures before it is too late so that we will not be in the plight in which China now finds herself in regard to forests.

WE are asked to state that there is no truth in the rumour that the proprietors of White Horse whisky are amalgamating with other whisky concerns in the home country.

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THE COAL DISPUTE AND ITS AFTERMATH

A Labour View: The Complete Defeat of the Miners: Owners Obtain Everything They Wanted: Increased Hours and Lower Wages

FROM OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

Manchester, Dec. 1.

The mining lock-out has ended in the complete defeat of the miners. The owners have obtained everything they wanted and much that they hardly dared to expect. The miner's working hours are to be longer than those anywhere else in Europe, excepting only Upper Silesia. The wages paid are to be lower than those paid for skilled or unskilled labour anywhere else in this country. This increase in hours will enable the owners to eliminate from the industry every man who took an active part in resisting their demands, for it will enable them to dispense with the services of 250,000 men. In some districts the owners will not even recognize the miner's district organizations, but are dealing with the men individually after scrutinizing their political records.

The jubilation of the owners at their victory is only paralleled by that of the Communists. For the success of their tactics in widening the field of Communist activities has exceeded Mr. Pollitt's wildest dreams. Hating any reformist measures that might tend towards the establishing of a period of industrial peace in Great Britain, and working deliberately for the accentuating of class hatred and proletarian misery these unsleeping propagandists have found in the coal-owners the best of allies. Their party has numerically doubled itself since the outbreak of the dispute and is now so snugly entrenched in the mining and other affected industrial districts that it will be difficult to eradicate it.

One of their local leaders explained to us a few days ago their party theory of the dispute's aftermath. They anticipate that the mine-owners in other countries will now be economically forced to fight their workers down to lower levels in a great effort to meet the new competition from Great Britain, with the result that Communist theories will make headway in such countries. "Then," he said, "the British coalowners—who are the most dull and reactionary in the world—will fight again to still further reduce their employees' standard of living." Whatever one may think of this ingenious theory it is undeniable that destitution and misery are the most powerful allies of the Communist propagandists all over the world. And with a few more disputes of the kind we have just experienced here there should be no more flourishing soil for it in all the world than Great Britain.

The history of the coal lock-out throws an illuminating flood of light on the reason why the Soviet government concentrates on Great Britain as the likeliest soil among western nations for the dissemination of their political theories. To the very end of this dispute a majority of the miners refused to admit defeat or abate a jot of their original demands. The slow starvation of their families drove thousands of them back into the pits, and, as might be expected, the anti-Labour press represented these defections as so much active opposition to the uncompromising policy of the Miner's Federation.

In a few isolated instances this may have been correct but in many more it is well known that the so-called "blacklegs" received no little sympathy from their comrades still out on strike. "We don't count Bill a scab, his wife and kids were just clemmed to death," is the kind of excuse that we have often heard in mining villages during the last three months. And even when the redoubtable Cook, and his dour colleague Herbert Smith, were eager to call the strike off the last ballot recorded a rank and file majority too stubborn to admit defeat.

Many men went back to the pits for a week or two and then came out again to resume the struggle with the few pounds they had earned by their labour. It is doubtful whether the Bolsheviks would have found anywhere else in the world such a body of disciplined and dogged opponents to the capitalist theory that the wages of every country must logically come down to the level of the one with the lowest standards.

At the other end of the scale the Communists had their task made easy by a body of employers who seem constitutionally incapable of ever looking farther ahead than six months at the outside limit. Their victory over the miner was only made possible because the Government held the victim down while they starved him into surrender. And having beaten him they are now indulging to the top of their bent in gratuitously humiliating him and robbing him of concessions he has slowly won through years of uphill struggle. Add to this a mentality that despises all research work having for its object the more scientific use of coal as a valuable raw product, being vaguely apprehensive that its more economical use will restrict its present wholesale consumption in open grates: Join it to a grasping individualism that fiercely opposes all schemes of unification for the industry, and one has a fairly accurate picture of those Bourbons of Industrial England—the mine-owners.

Coal, we are constantly told, is our key industry. Is it any wonder that with a mining population blessed with such British qualities of stubbornness and courage, and an employing class that has barely emerged from that *laissez faire* epoch of British industry which reached its apex somewhere about 1820, that the hand which turns the key stretches out from Moscow?

One of the curious effects of the dispute has been to sharpen the political predilections of both rural and industrial constituencies. Labour, of every shade of red, has strengthened its position in the industrial districts. But in the rural areas it has, if anything, lost ground.

For the one large class of labour that was more ill paid in monetary wages than the miners were the agricultural workers. They have shown little sympathy for the miners during any period of the lock out. So while Labour is fairly confident of a large number of victories in industrial constituencies at the next General election it is anticipated that the rural areas will remain faithful to their present Conservative representatives. Last week, at Howdenshire, the Labour candidate failed to poll a sufficent number of votes to ensure the return of his deposit. But during the recent municipal elections Labour achieved a nett gain of more than 150 seats, most of which in industrial areas; and in some towns—including Sheffield—they now have a majority on the councils.

Labour Leaders' Part in Strike

The Communists are also jubilant over the part played in the dispute by the Right wing Labour and trade union leaders. These good intentioned but somewhat woolly brained individuals were stampeded into backing the general strike when the outrageous character of the mine-owner's demands were first revealed. This incursion into the most foolish manifestation of direct action we have yet had cost them dearly in lost prestige from their moderate trade union supporters. It has also destroyed all the effect there might have been in their subsequent railings at the extremism of Cook and Smith.

For at least the latter gentlemen can fairly claim that they have been engaged in the straightforward and legitimate business of resisting a reduction in their members' standard of living (which is the function for which trade unions exist) But ever since the general strike was called off Messrs Clynes, Snowden, Macdonald, Bromley, Thomas, Hodges, and many other "moderates" have been profitably and industriously engaged in exposing to the readers of the anti-Labour press the futility of the miner's resistance and the shortcomings of their leaders.

It is well known in journalistic circles that these essays in amateur journalism have been exceptionally well remunerated. This inopportune enterprise has cost them more in lost popularity than any error of judgment we remember, and the Communists have not hesitated to make the most of it. Left wing partisans in the Labour movement are now confident that when the victorious Labour host troops into Parliament after the next general election these amateur journalists will be missing. Some of them are now taking part in the "Industrial Truce" movement which apparently has for its object the wild idea of standardizing existing hours and wage rates for the next five years. That means the ensuring to the builder his £5 a week, to the dustman his £3: 15: 0, the engineer his £2: 16, to the miner his 30/- or 40/- and so on through the whole absurd scale of unendurable anomalies. Such a scheme is, of course, not worth wasting breath upon although any amount of breath is being wasted upon it in halls and meeting rooms up and down the country.

It is reliably estimated that the cost of coal at the pit head now the new agreements are in operation averages 15/- per ton. The mine owners are charging from £2: 15: 0 to £3: 5 for it. Paragraphs are also appearing in the press from unrevealed sources warning coal buyers that "for a long time to come" coal will be dearer than it used to be, as the owners have to recompense themselves for their past losses. It is very evident already that the production of "cheap coal" has ceased to figure in the vocabulary of the mine-owner's press agents. The profits that will be won by this last infamous reduction of the miner's standard of living are not, it appears, to benefit the steel workers and all the other workers who depend on cheap coal for prosperity. All these profits are to go into the mine-owners' pockets.

Several manufacturers have already awakened to this entertaining volte face and their plaintive letters have enlivened the local press. Others are recalling that a Cabinet Minister stated before the outbreak of the dispute that what was wrong with the industry was the fact that there was a surplus of 200,000 men in it. They are now wondering why the increase of hours with the further two or three hundred thousand men it will throw out of work was ever supposed to be a remedy for our coal industry ills. The miners reasonably argue that the owners want this huge reservoir of destitute labour so that wages can be kept down.

Next week Mr. Cook pays his visit to Moscow. His reception there should equal that of any victorious general returning home, if the home is only a spiritual one. Behind him in the mining villages of Scotland, Durham, Yorkshire, and Lancashire, in the Welsh valleys, and a hundred other places, he leaves bitter class hatred, destitution, ill health and misery. It is the most fertile soil for the seed his friends in Moscow want to sow in Great Britain, and in every mining lodge and trade union branch there are trained propagandists now sowing it.

Before he went he issued his last manifesto. He said that he would never put his hand to any agreement lengthening the hours of the miners, and he has kept his word. His prestige among the miners is undiminished. A spontaneous cheer greets the mention of his name in any Labour meeting in the country. And as nothing reveals the man more than his spoken and written utterances it might be as well to give here his farewell speech.

> For months the mineowners, government, and certain Labour leaders, with an itch for earning capitalist money by attacking the miners in the press, have reiterated in chorus that the coal war could be harmoniously terminated if only Herbert Smith and A. J. Cook would stand aside and allow the owners and the men to get together.
>
> By conference decision it was agreed to remit the question of settlement to the districts and to instruct the men to open up negotiations with the owners. Has harmony and peace resulted?
>
> In Bristol, Somerset, Kent, Forest of Dean, Leicester, and Notts the owners refuse to meet the representatives of the Miners' Federation. As a matter of fact in Somerset the owners actually refuse to discuss any terms until the men begin work.
>
> In Forest of Dean the owners insist that they will only meet the officials of the Miners' Federation side by side with the blacklegs.
>
> And what are the proposed terms submitted to our men in the districts? They are slave conditions. Longer hours, lower wages, the sweeping away of local customs, are the main items.
>
> These conditions are thrown down with an insolence which shows that the owners are not only determined to enforce slave conditions, but they are equally determined to destroy the elementary rights of trade unionism.
>
> This is how the employers have replied to the hysterical pleadings of Thomas, Snowden, and Clynes for "industrial peace."
>
> Thomas yearns for the bosses to do "the big thing." He has had his reply—they have produced "the big stick."
>
> This is the logical outcome of his whining for the miners to accept lower wages and district agreements—which mean longer hours. Thomas did not worry over much what the terms should be. It was only a settlement, at any cost, that he desired.
>
> His object—supported by the mine-owners' government and the boss press—has been attained. And the Workers will pay for it with their bodies and souls.
>
> A decent living wage, seven hours and a national agreement was the basis of the programme upon which Herbert Smith, myself, and the Miners' Federation met the demands of the owners when they locked out our men.
>
> I still adhere to that programme The Miners' Federation will not ratify any agreements which do not contain these aims.
>
> We will use the Federation to encourage the struggle wherever we can and to fight against victimization.
>
> We will study the lessons of this struggle, and we will build up a powerful all-in national organization of the miners.
>
> As the delegate of the Miners' Federation I travel to Russia to thank the brave Workers and leaders there for their splendid help. Had our own trade unionists done as much as our Russian comrades the Miners' struggle would have ended in a great triumph.

It is supposed that Mr. Cook will now conduct an energetic campaign in the coal fields having for its object the unification of all the district organizations into one big union. He will denounce any agreement forced on the men which binds them to a long industrial truce. And he will work for a retaliatory strike at the earliest possible opportunity. It is commonly, and we believe, correctly supposed that if this strike takes place when a Labour Government is in power that Government will buy off its extreme left wing by nationalising the mines. If it takes place before a change in the government it will immediately precipitate one.

GOLDEN FISH AND THEIR TRANSFORMATION

Said to be the Loveliest Living Creatures

Fifty times its weight in gold may seem an impossible price for a fish, yet that was approximately the price realized a few years ago for the first pair of lion-headed goldfish to reach America. They were sold for £200. Nobody knows, writes David Neville, how long ago the Chinese began, by patient selective breeding, to transform the little olive-grey carp of their rivers into a living replica of the golden fish that is one of the eight symbols of Buddha. It was a task that only Orientals, for whom time has no meaning, could have accomplished.

Just as they evolved the Pekingese spaniel in deliberate imitation of the lion-like "Dogs of Happiness" (pairs of which are so common a subject in Chinese porcelain), so they produced goldfish of a strange, grotesque beauty that at first repels and then fascinates. Bulging, telescoped eyes and strange forked fins make them look like that other fish in Chinese legend which swam up the Yellow River until at last it passed the rapids of the Dragon Gate and itself became a dragon.

It was left to the Japanese to borrow the art of China and to improve it beyond all recognition.

There is no living creature that for pure loveliness can surpass their veiltail, with its three or four inches of trailing, gossamer fins and tail. Whole families have worked for generations, and are still doing so, to produce it.

The common goldfish is hardy enough and will live beneath the ice of a frozen pond, but these pampered aristocrats must be nursed and tended watchfully. There is a deadly, contagious fungus that attacks them, and when the tiny fry emerge from the spawn a myriad enemies lurk in waiting for them—water-snails, beetles and their kind, not to mention their own cannibal parents.

STRANGE RAILWAY DISASTER

Tragic Collision Between Express and Derailed Cars: Pitiable Scenes on Line

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

London, Nov. 25.

This week we have had a very tragic and very curious railway disaster, in which nine passengers were killed, two seriously injured, and 30 less severely hurt. It occurred near Notherham. Yorkshire and the people involved were travelling in the London, Midland and Scottish 10.10 a.m. express from York to Bristol. Near Parkgate and Rawmarsh Station a waggon of a goods train going in the opposite direction became derailed, causing following waggons to pile up. As the trains were passing one of the overhanging wagons crashed on to the coaches of the passenger train, ripping the last two in half. Six passengers were killed outright, two died on the way to hospital, and a third died in hospital late the following night. Fortunately on the ripped side, was the gangway and the corridor coach; as it was nearly all the passengers sitting in the left-hand corners were killed.

Eye-Witness Story

Driver A. Birkenshaw, who saw the accident from his footplate on another train, described it as follows:—

"Two seconds later and the smash would never have happened. We were stationary near Rawmarsh about 11.15 when I saw some of the waggons of a coal train coming along to Rotherham pile up on one in front. Just as this slight gripped me the 10.10 express from York to Birmingham came racing only on the next line in the opposite direction. Something, I knew was going to happen to the coal train, and I held my breath as the two trains careered towards each other. I watched to see if the express would get past in time. The piled up waggons swayed as the goods train raced along. Just as the two trains began to pass the waggons swayed even more. They missed the engine but caught the front of the second coach. They damaged the next coach more, and then crushed into the fourth and last coaches, tearing away the sides. It was only the last two coaches which were badly smashed, and if only the waggons had been piled up two seconds later not a soul would have been hurt.

"While the brakes of the express were screaming I jumped down and ran to help. As I reached the passenger train—I was there first—I saw the terribly mutilated people stretched over the ripped seats near the left side of the carriages. At the other side of one carriage was a little girl screaming. I climbed up and lifted her out. Then, I helped out a woman who was crying. 'My husband. My husband.' I had to help to lift out her husband—dead.

"People were running up from all sides, and as quickly and carefully as we could we helped out the people who were still alive and lifted down the dead."

The names of the dead are:—

The Rev. F. W. Davis, Trinity Terrace, Cheltenham.

Sergeant A. Newbould, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, stationed at Dover.

Mr. H. Woolnam, The Nurseries, Shirley, Birmingham.

Mr. J. Dutton, Gravelly Hill, Birmingham, employed by Messrs. J. J. and H. Bissell, fellmongers, of Birmingham.

Mr. Walter Statham, commercial traveller, June Villa, Yardley Wood road, Wastock, Birmingham.

Mr. Zachariah Bailey, bookmaker, Willow Park, Pontefract.

Mr. Archibald Schofield, Kingsway House, Ackworth Road, Pontefract, an ex-alderman of Pontefract.

Mr. J. S. Canby tobacconist, Park grove, Hull.

Mr. J. J. Ball, 33 Queens Road, Hull.

Mr. Schofield and Mr. Canby died on the way to hospital, and Mr. Ball died in hospital late the following night. The injured, who are in the Rotherham Hospital, are:—

Mrs. Gertie Ball, wife of Mr. J. J. Ball.

Mrs. Hilda Newbould, wife of Sergeant Newbould. Others passengers who complained of shock and slight injuries proceeded to their destinations.

Compartment Torn in Half

Thirteen compartments, four of them first class, were torn in half. Tangles of wood, seat springs, upholstery, glass, and passengers' belongings, with torn-away luggage racks hanging above, formed half of the carriage, while the other half was intact. One young man said he was talking to a clergyman. The former looked out of the window and there was a tearing crash at the opposite side of the carriage. "I swung round and the clergyman was gone," he said, "torn from the seat that I had just

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seen him in." There were two women passengers whose husbands were killed Mrs. Newbould, the wife of Sergeant Newbould, had her husband snatched from her side. Her four-months-old baby, which she was nursing, was unhurt. With blood streaming from a deep cut in her head, Mrs. Newbould stood crying, "My husband! my husband! My baby! He was the best husband in the world," she sobbed, as helpers lifted her down. Most of the helpers were miners, who heard the crash from their cottages in the narrow streets which run at right angles to the railway track. Mr. Freeman Cooper and his son Thomas heard the collision from their cottage, and Thomas jumped over the wall on to the railway. "Immediately I saw the bodies of two men," he told me, "I helped out some of the people and then ran for bandages. I have just been learning first-aid work and I was able to bind up a good many people's cuts. Among the men I helped out were Joe Taylor, the jockey, and Mr. Vasey, the trainer.

A Widow's Story

Mrs. Newbould stated that she and her husband were on a furlough holiday from Dover, where he was stationed, and were staying with her mother at Pontefract. She said:

"We decided to have a day's holiday ■ Sheffield. It has been a dear day out for us. My husband and I were sitting on one side of the compartment and Mr. and Mrs. Ball on the other. My husband and Mrs. Ball were near the left-hand window. Mrs. Ball and I were about half-way along the seat Mrs. Ball was speaking to us, when suddenly there was a terrific crash and the whole carriage seemed to fall. Glass was flying everywhere and I was cut on the head and blinded for some minutes by blood. When I came round my husband was lying terribly disfigured. He served throughout the war and was in the Army of Occupation in Cologne."

Mr. J. H. Follows, the chief general superintendent of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company, has announced that the disaster was due to the breaking in the coal train involved of a drawbar—the iron bar which runs under a wagon from end to end.

The disaster is the biggest in Britain since November 3, 1924, when ■ people were killed by a derailment at Lytham, Lancashire. Other big accidents during the past 12 years were as follows:—

1915 January 1. 10 killed at Ilford; signals overran.
1916 May 22. 224 killed in troop-train collision, Gretna Green.
1915 December 18. 17 killed at Jarrow; double collision, fire.
1917 January 3. 12 killed at Ratho (N. B. Railway), collision.
1921 January 26. 17 killed at Newton-Abernale; head-on collision single line.
1924 April 26. 5 killed in Cup-tie train at Euston.
1924 July 28. 6 killed at Edinburgh; ran into rear of stationary train.
1926 September 3. 3 killed at Hope, collision.
1926 May 14. 3 killed, several injured near Edinburgh; collision during General Strike.

A Strange Accident

A strange railway mishap, for which there is no apparent explanation, occurred at Robertsbridge on the Southern Railway on Tuesday. The 6.4 p.m. train from Cannon Street to Hastings was passing through the Robertsbridge area when in passing a goods train four handles were torn from carriage doors and a window of one of the carriages was smashed. The goods train, which was running from Bexhill to London, consisted of 13 empty trucks, none of which bear any mark of having come into contact with the other train. The driver noticed nothing unusual and so far as he knows nothing was projecting from the side of the trucks. A curious feature is that the handles torn off were not those of successive doors. Several handles were missed between the first and second handles damaged, and there were varying spaces between the other handles removed. None of the passengers on the 6.4 was injured.

By the way there has been another railway accident this week though of the more normal type. It was a collision between two Southend express trains, which had left Fenchurch Street at 6.7 and 6.17 respectively and it occurred in a thick fog on Wednesday evening between Barking and Gale Street. The trains were running slowly owing to the fog when the engine of the 6.17 train ran into the rear of the 6.7. Both the trains were heavily laden with passengers going home from business, and many of them were thrown from their seats, about 70 suffering from cuts, bruises and shock. Most of the injured were in the second train, which remained on the scene of the accident for about an hour. The first train having moved on, the 6.17 train was then able to go to Gale Street where medical men and police officers with first aid equipment lanterns and torches made a tour of the carriages, attending to the injured. The signal box at Gale Street was converted into a temporary hospital, where heads were bandaged and restoratives administered. Four were conveyed to Romford Infirmary where two were detained.

OUR INDIA LETTERS

Legislative Assembly Elections in Full Swing: Scathing Denunciation of Non-Co-operation Policy—Ineffective and Nonsensical: Indian Cattle Breeding

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Calcutta, Nov. 10.

One of the most promising young cricketers in Calcutta, a man of whom great things are expected when the M.C.C. team visit this city, is Mr. John Lindsay Guise, a fairly recent arrival in India. I understand that during his stay at Oxford he was one of the leading players in the University and amongst their finest batsmen. Certainly, his record in local cricket has highly redounded to his credit. ■ was recently announced, by the way, that Mr. Guise was engaged to be married to Miss Joan Thomas, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joan Plasket Thomas of Eleot Park, Kinthury Park, Berks., and his marriage when it comes off in January will be quite one of the most popular events in Calcutta. Meanwhile, sportsmen in Calcutta are hoping that Mr. Guise and one or two other players who have shown extremely promising form will make a break in the hitherto wholly triumphant record of the visitors who, since the second match of their tour in which they met an opposition truly worthy of their steel, have carried all before them.

An Election Omen

It ■ of some significance that the first of the election returns records the victory of Mr. Rang Beharilal, an Independent Congress candidate over Mr. Asaf Ali, the Swarajist nominee, at Delhi, the winter capital of the Government. The victory was a decisive one, Mr. Beharilal scoring 1,680 votes ■ the Swarajist's 1,446. The Independent Congress Party, therefore, which was only recently established, may congratulate itself on the triumph it has scored over a Party much older and more firmly established and in point of party funds much richer. It is, however, significant of the apathy displayed by a great part of the electorate that only 3,600 out of the 6,500 electors of Delhi, or 55 per cent. took the trouble to vote. In Delhi, by the way, the Mahommedans have a grievance inasmuch as there are 4,500 Hindus on the voting list against 1,800 Mahommedans, and it is understood that they will shortly petition the Government of India to grant them a separate representation on the ground that, otherwise, they will never have a chance of being represented in the Legislative Assembly.

Parsi Youths' Long Distance Swim

The recent cross Channel swimming feats have had a stimulating effect on aquatic sport in India. In Calcutta we have had one or two long distance swimming events and the number of Indian youths who entered was really astonishing. But the most outstanding feat of the kind in India is that of two Parsi youths, Erachsha Rustomji Khan and Kaikhoshroo Dhanjibhoy Pochkanawalla, who swam from Kran, a small village nestling at the water's edge on the mainland to the south-east of Bombay across the harbour to the Gateway of India at Apollo Bunder, a distance of approximately 12 miles, in five hours and 50 minutes. The swimmers took the water at noon, both starting in fine style and keeping a steady pace throughout. Pochkanawalla used the breast stroke practically the whole way whilst his colleague varied his style considerably. At the end of their swim they were greeted with enthusiastic cheers by a large crowd which had assembled on the steps to watch their arrival.

Hindus in U. S. A.

A ruling of the Circuit Court of Appeals of America has occasioned profound interest here where the disabilities of the colour bar in the West are only too keenly felt and quickly resented. In this case, however, Indians have experienced a pleasant surprise, for, despite the fact that the Supreme Court decided in 1923 that Hindus were not entitled to become citizens of the United States, the Circuit Court of Appeals has sustained a ruling of the lower court granting citizenship to Pundit Sanjharam Ganesh, a distinguished Hindu scholar and Los Angeles attorney. There is still, however, the possibility that this ruling will be quashed, for it is believed that the Department of Justice, with which lies the next move, will seek another ruling of the Supreme Court.

French Airmen's Flight

An astonishing flight made by two French airmen, Captain Rignot and Lieut Coste, illustrates in a vivid manner the possibilities of aviation in the future. These two airmen left Paris on October 30 and, flying to Jask on the Persian Gulf without a stop in 32 hours, created a record. From thence they proceeded to Karachi which they accomplished in a day and ■ next morning set out for Calcutta which they hoped to reach the same day. Finding, however, that they would be unable to reach Calcutta till after nightfall and fearing to risk the dangers of an unknown route by travelling after sunset, the airmen were obliged to land at Patna, so that they did not arrive in Calcutta till the next morning. This, however, detracts nothing from their achievement which remains easily the fastest flight to and across India. The previous holder of the record flight from Europe to India, by the way, was the French airman D'Oisy who left Paris on April 24, 1924, and reached Karachi on April 29. He reached Calcutta on May 5 *vid* Agra, his actual flying time from Karachi being 13 hours.

Aerial Survey in the East

Apropos the development of flying in the Far East some interesting remarks were made recently by Col. Ryder who presided at a luncheon of the Air Survey Company, Ld. recently. "Half the cost in quarter the time!" he said, was the slogan of aerial surveying, the achievements of which in the East by three seaplanes in three years without a single accident, and the fact that people in the East expected this reliability were the most hopeful signs of the future of commercial airways. The next move, he stated speaking of surveys in Burma and Bengal, would be towards Bengal, where the company would make the first start in the survey of India. In this connexion it is interesting to learn that an important new Empire link is to be established between Rangoon and Jesselton (British Borneo) *vid* Singapore and Batavia, for which the Air Survey Company is building several 8-seater planes. The Company expects that it will require larger vessels within two years.

Afghan View of India

Should the Swarajists receive a crushing defeat at the forthcoming elections as is possible it will nowhere be viewed with greater disappointment than in Afghanistan judging from an inspired appeal which appeared recently in the "*Ittihadi Mumtaqui*," a newspaper published in Jalabad. In an article entitled "The Cry for Unity" the paper deplores the fact that India's efforts towards freedom have not yet assumed a practical form. The paper continues;—"Jealousy and ignorance do not allow the Hindus and Moslems ■ become firm Indians. Imaginary fears have possessed the Hindus and they are dragging their brethren, the Moslems, by the neck. The various Sangathan, Arya Samaj, Akali and other associations instead of cultivating unity are gnawing at its very roots. On the other hand the Indian Moslems excite their country brethren with problems like music before mosques and the slaughter of cows or by writing immoderate articles and pamphlets. Leaving this aside the sectarian differences among the Moslems themselves engage their attention to such an extent that they cannot look to their chief aim. This heartrending calamity which has befallen the Islamic world in general and our Indian brothers in particular has paralized their nerves of freedom. When we Afghans study the accounts of communal dissensions in the Indian newspapers our heartaches increase. We can do nothing but shed tears on Hindu-Moslem unity and weep at the perverse fortune of East. O Indian Moslems! Why have your pretensions to unity become null and void? Cannot you set aside the misunderstandings between you and embrace the Hindus? The Afghan Government accords to the Hindus affectionate treatment in its dominions, following the commandments contained in the Koran and in view of the neighbourly and geographical considerations."

Legislative Assembly Elections

Nov. 16.

The elections are now in full swing and in a few days time we shall know the constitution of the new Legislative Assembly. In the Northern Constituency of Calcutta, by the way, the Swarajists adopted a novel form of propaganda during the celebrations of the Dewali which is a religious festival. The Swarajist candidate in that constituency is a Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose to whom is opposed Mr. Jatindra Nath Basu, the Liberal sitting member. In order to attract the attention of the women voters, who are exceedingly difficult to get at, the Swarajists hit upon the ingenious plan of sending up rockets which burst with a loud explosion, thus attracting the notice of people both in the streets and in the houses. Instead of dropping the beautiful, multi-coloured stars ordinarily associated with rockets, however, sheaves of handbills printed on paper of different colours were showered upon the people below. These contained the following exhortation printed in Bengali. "Do not forget to vote for Subhas Chandra Bose who is now within prison walls." This is the first time, it seems that this method of distributing handbills has been used in India.

Non-Co-operation Condemned

The most effective condemnation of the non-co-operation policy of the Swarajist or Congress Party as it ■ now called, which has yet appeared is that of Pundit Madan Mohan Malaviya, a leading Indian politician and formerly the colleague of Pundit Motilal Nehru, the Swarajist leader, but since the split with the Swarajist Party, his most powerful opponent. Speaking during the election campaign at Bombay Pundit Malaviya showed quite clearly how the Swarajists themselves had been obliged more than once to waive their creed. After declaring that indiscriminate obstruction is "utter nonsense" he maintained that the Swarajists by their record in the Councils had fully established the part. Having entered the Councils on pledges of uniform and continuous obstruction, they had, at every step, been compelled to go against their pledges. He then proceeded to trace the history of the non-co-operation movement and the many changes effected by it, all of which proved, according to him, how ineffective it had been.

Indian Cattle Breeding

Giving evidence before the Agricultural Commission, Mr. William Smith, Imperial Dairy expert, painted a gloomy picture of the condition into which Indian cattle breeding has fallen. The quality of Indian cattle, he said, grew worse from year to year. For this reason the introduction of modern cultivating, seeding and harvesting machinery was being retarded. The growing of every class of crop was adversely affected through the inefficiency of the plough bullock, the general health of which was detrimentally influenced through the insufficiency of a cheap and safe supply of dairy produce. Mr. Smith pointed out that the reason for this evil was to be found in Hindu sentiment regarding the killing of cattle in consequence of which, and through ignorance, apathy and lack of skill of the cattle breeders India suffered a loss, amounting to a colossal sum annually.

Amazing Scenes in Portuguese Colony

The most amazing scenes are being witnessed at Calangute, a village of Bardez, where the elections for Portuguese India's representative to the Supreme Council for the Colonies is still in progress. This village which is the talk of the whole Colony at the present time, has become the resort of most of the political leaders of the country and is being visited by a large number of people from different parts of Goa. In this small village the election contest has degenerated into a battle royal. The electors are being practically driven to the polls, students, workmen and others being hurried to the village to record their votes. The most astounding incident of this election, however, was the imprisonment of two individuals, not for any crime or misdemeanour, but to satisfy the supporters of the favourite candidate that they were safely out of the way and who seized them for this purpose. The authorities were only able to secure their release the next morning. The whole village is now patrolled by the military. A Gilbertian situation seems to have arisen, judging from the local gossip, inasmuch as it is freely stated that the favourite candidate has secured about 1,200 votes when the total number of effective voters is slightly over 500.

Afghan-Soviet Treaty

A certain amount of anxiety in this country has been allayed by the statement in the House of Commons of Sir Austen Chamberlain that he had received a translation of the Afghan-Soviet Treaty and he had no reason to suppose that it contained anything prejudicial to British or Indian interests. At the same time the rumour of a possible Pan-Asiatic League composed of Afghanistan, Turkey, Persia and Russia, which the Soviet Government is said to be working for, and the recent meeting in Odessa between Comrade Chicherin and Tewfik Rushdi, the Turkish emissary, still make it necessary to keep a vigilant eye on Afghanistan, where the Afghan King on more than one occasion has shown how keenly interested he is in the conscription movement.

"Ranji's" Speed Limit

That ever popular cricketer Prince "Ranji," or to give him his full title, the Jam Sahib of Nawanagar, recently appeared in the public eye in an unusual rôle when chauffeurs was summoned at the Brentford Police Court for exceeding the speed limit. An interesting point was made in the case by his Counsel who stated that "Ranji" was in the car at the time, but that, inasmuch as he was a reigning prince, the case could not be dealt with by the Bench. He declared that there had been a decision on this matter, to which the Chairman replied, "I don't care who it is. He is not entitled to tear up and down this country." However, he adjourned the case for a fortnight for the legal position to be cleared up.

THE Exmoor "white stag" mystery has, after all, a foundation of truth. A Mr. Notley, of Combe Sydenham, has missed a valuable white buck with white antlers. Hearing that a white stag had been seen he counted with difficulty his herd of fallow deer and found the white buck missing. No doubt this is the one over which there has been so much concern.

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SPECIAL ARTICLES

EVERY MAN HIS OWN RECORDER

Sermon Preached by the Bishop of London in Holy Trinity Cathedral on Sunday Morning, December 19

Romans 14, v. 12.—"So then every man must give an account of himself to God."

I need not say, dear people, what a delight it is to me to see this great congregation of my fellow-countrymen so far from Home, also, of course, including many Americans, who have given me such a tremendous welcome on my way here, and how much I admire the beautiful service, the singing and the wonderful reverence rendered here so far away from Home. I have been anxiously thinking over what should be my message. Should it be a message of comfort in what is a time of considerable anxiety? If so my message would have a wonderfully comforting sound. Not only the whole country of England, but all Great Britain is behind you and also the everlasting God. Yet I hesitate to take a message of simple comfort, even in answer to a rather touching anonymous letter and I feel that I must press home the definite message which is given in the words of St. Paul.

The reason that I love this particular phrase is that it simplifies things. There are so many puzzling pictures about the Advent and I will try to explain them. They all come down to one single solid thought—that everyone must give an account of himself to God.

Pictures and Their Meaning

Take the Great White Throne. It is admitted that this is only a vision. I hate the thought that some little boy, as many of them are, should be haunted all through life by the idea that he is to stand out alone before a great white throne with millions of people around. Let us dismiss that as a vision, but the meaning is none the less. When you come to some of the other pictures that is a far different story. I came out here on a great liner with all sorts of beliefs in ships and great crowds gathered round me to hear my sermons and on one occasion I could not help asking a Unitarian, How is it that people can come to reconcile a purely personal picture of Our Lord with themselves. Is it conceivable? Can you conceive any man saying that of himself? You cannot dismiss these words as altogether a vision. It must mean something to come.

Take that touching picture of the maidens waiting for the bridegroom, which is all the more touching when you read it in the Greek. "Our lamps are flickering out." Cannot you hear it and the inevitable lesson? Is it enough to say, "My wife goes to Church and my children to Sunday School and I need not bother to go myself?" You cannot live with religion by others. You cannot get oil from someone else's lamp at the last moment.

Or take the picture of the servants who were left with the talents and the master came back unexpectedly. Our feeling is that it is rather hard lines on the man with one talent to have it taken away. Don't you see that it proves true in life? Any man who comes to Shanghai and is a slacker gets slacker and slacker and does no good. Another man gets stronger and more able and gets on. So it is that from the one the talent is taken and to the other talents are added. Where we make the mistake is that the unjust steward was commended for his cleverness by his master and not by our Lord. What he said in effect was, "If all the children of light were as clever as you in your rascality they would get on as well as you." When we put all these puzzling stories together, and, if I may say so, boil it down into a single sentence, the fact comes out plainly and in a manner that no one can misunderstand, that everyone must give an account of himself to God. You are not butterflies to die in the sunshine. You will not die like dogs. Everyone must give an account of himself to God.

Advent Questions

Then we come to consider, in the first place, of what have we to give an account, by what standard shall we be judged, and when is it going to happen. All these are rather pressing Advent questions. First of all we undoubtedly have to give an account of our opinions. It is ridiculous that some people seem to think that their opinions do not matter. But we have got to give an account of what we think when we stand before God and why we think this. It is not sufficient that one should say, "I am not built that way. I don't say my prayers and I don't go to church, because I am not built that way." Why are we not built that way? What distinguishes us from the animals is that we are born to pray. Religion comes perfectly natural to children, as you have seen in the way in which they have sung hymns here this morning. We were all like that once. We all had the power and we cannot say that we are not built that way.

When Aaron, who made the golden calf, was taxed about it he said, "Well, they gave me the gold and I put it in the fire and there came out this calf." He forgot how he took the tools and formed it and that the fire only hardened it. I ask you to remember this because I feel such love for my fellow men. Do you remember moulding the whole thing? The fire is only hardening when you are shaping. You cannot lay the blame on circumstances, because we have all to give an account of what we think.

Take another opinion that I found rather common as I came across the water—that it does not matter that we have 250 Christian sects. I had rather a good-natured laugh in the church at Tokyo when I said that I had shaken hands with 16 different sects of missionaries that very afternoon. Yet we have got to give an account of that. We ourselves have an idea that it does not matter, although Our Lord's last prayer was that we should all be one. We have been split up into 250 sects in America alone. All these things are merely illustrative of the opinion of which we have got to give an account.

Take the opinion of a person who says, "I do go to church occasionally—I am here this morning, as a matter of fact—but I don't go to Communion. I am not fit for that and it is not for the likes of me." I should like these to remember all the significance of it, especially as the Christmas Communion draws near. This simple service was meant for the workers of the world and not for the clergy or Sisters of Mercy. It was made simple so that all might understand it. We are not meant to be theologians in order to explain Holy Communion. It is the last thing I should like to attempt myself. We really have all got to give an account because we have lived, most of us, in a Christian country. So what shall we say of Our Lord's last command when we have never been near Holy Communion during our life?

Not on Gennesareth but Thames

But more than our opinion we have got to give an account of what we have done. It is all known. I was preaching one day, on the way here, on the nearness of God and afterwards a Christian Science lady said that it was the best Christian Science sermon she had heard. That seemed to be rather extraordinary, for the Church sees the nearness of God every day. He is about us all the time and is acquainted with all our doings.

An even more searching question is what we have not done. I press home to you in the examination before Christmas what we have not done. I do not know, I know nothing about your lives, but I think, of all this myself before I say it to you. Still more searching is the question as to what we are. There must be considered all the judgments of the business life, all the trading, all the decisions we have had to make, and what has been the result. You are what you are and only God knows what that is. It is perfectly clear that every man and woman must give an account of what has been done and not done, what has been thought of and not thought of and what we are.

The Unchanging Standard

Then comes the very searching question—By what standard are we going to be judged? One of the best things about the English law—it may also be the American—and I know perfectly well that many people wish to God it was the case about the Chinese law, is that everybody knows what is expected of them. But what is the standard by which we ourselves are to be judged? I emphasize this because in the midst of the wonderful reception by 22 universities in America, when I addressed 100,000 students in six weeks, I found creeping in the idea that there is something different in the standard to-day, especially of morality, as compared with the standard of 40 years ago. Many people, especially the press, always are asking me about this. I say there is no difference. When I was in Oxford House they asked the same question and they had the same difficulties. On the ship I found boys I confirmed years ago and I heard the same questions, but I have not found any difference between human nature 40 years ago and to-day. The idea that there is another standard or that the modern mind demands this or that is an entire delusion, because when we come to the Judgment Day it is going to be the same standard for every generation. It will not be the same for everybody, because some did not know their Lord's will, but subject to that, God will judge world by the standard of that Man He has ordained. Jesus Christ came into the world not only to save us and reveal God, but as a standard of what a man's life was to be. No man and no woman should say, as they are beginning to say in the Middle West, that it does not matter if they live together for a little while without being married, because that is mid-Victorian,—because that is quite mistaken, even if they are married later. The modern post-war morality is all wrong.

It must be pressed home, What would Jesus do? There was a book of which two million copies were sold and it was the only one except the Bible of which there were two million copies sold. It was "What would Jesus do?" The reason it had such a tremendous sale was because the author told what Jesus would do in various cases. The question is going to be the standard, "What would He have done if He had been in my case?" So I urge you to think over it. Don't listen to the plausible idea that it is pre-Victorian to be moral. Unfaithfulness to the marriage vows and all this prevalence of divorce, especially in America, I say is a great mistake.

Every Day a Judge

The next question is as to when it is going to happen. My answer at first may rather surprise you. It begins to-day. There is no judge so ruthless as the dawn of day. It comes in and reveals things and no one can question what happened the night before. It may not be very terrible. Every day, which comes in is judged by the light and the judgment is absolutely inevitable, there is no getting round it. There was a very telling story which we read a great deal in England years ago, of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." Dr. Jekyll was a benevolent physician whom everyone admired and he had the respect of the whole community. Mr. Hyde was an ugly little dwarf who did ugly things at night; and the whole point was that Dr. Jekyll turned out to be Mr. Hyde. He was Dr. Jekyll by day and Mr. Hyde by night. It may seem rather a foolish story, but it is a story that goes home. Are we content to be looked upon as Dr. Jekyll, a person keeping up appearances by day, when all the time there is at night a person living out all the lust of the flesh or mere money-making? The dawn of day will show the world which is the real person.

In a way, therefore, I say judgment begins to-day, but it also begins with death and we ought not to be afraid of death. I have come across many cases of sudden death and I think we ought to remember the beautiful words, "The Master is come and calleth for thee." One of my predecessors, Archbishop Laud, said the day before he was beheaded, "Lord, I am coming as fast as I can." So we should not be afraid. But at the same time death is a judgment. The same sentence may be Hell to one and Heaven to another. It would not do to take a man out of a perfectly bad life and send him to Heaven, because Heaven would scorch him. We all are going to the place we have prepared for ourselves.

In the Twinkling of an Eye

Finally, is the great day only a parable? I believe myself, and I only say what I have thought of a great deal, that there is coming a great day. It has been prophesied too often and too clearly that the Jesus who went to Heaven shall come again in the same manner as He was seen to go to Heaven. I believe myself that although in a way judgment begins to-day and continues to death, there is coming a day when Christ shall come again and we ought not to be afraid of it because the One who is coming is our best friend. The cruelty of the world and the triumphs of its worldliness should make us glad of the change that is coming. We have to be prepared not only for judgment to-day and death at any time, but also for the coming of our Lord at any time. There is always the likeness of the lightning. Like the Japanese earthquake, it will come in a flash. I saw evidences of that on my way here and yet that had been prepared for hundreds of years, but it came in a flash.

So let your loins be girded about and your lights burning. Let there be concentration of purpose, self-control and economy of time. God's work is done by God's light, by prayer, by Bible reading, by attending Church, by Communion; and do not live as some who seem to think they will live for ever. For Christ will come.

FROM THE CROW'S NEST

Marriage a la Mud: A Rhymed Episode

Though the outlook be uncertain,
though the falling of the curtain
on the Cuthay that we knew of yore
is doubtless on the cards, despite
correspondence and the acts of them
who like to blink the facts—the fulmination and ado of folk known
as die-hards,—there remains this
consolation: for some time this harassed nation will adhere to certain
customs, nor let these be nipped in
bud of reforms that are political
and these, however critical, will
never quite eliminate the Marriage a la Mud.

This remarkable obsession's illustrated by processions the sight
of which to laughter the spectators
straightway goad, by evincing predilection for a uniform direction
where the Maloo's noisy traffic bars
the less, on Thibet Road. Here,
with banners calculating chance of
crossing while they're waiting, may
be seen on almost any day some
gaudy marriage train, with its
quaint paraphernalia, much like
Roman Saturnalia, in the slime and
ooze resultant from the everlasting
rain.

* * *

Ng Nok-nee was long betrothed.
Now, appropriately clothed, she's
been soldered to some one she
scarcely knows, by mystic priest;
and is borne by sweating porters who've transported many
daughters from the walls that sheltered maidenhood unto the marriage
feast. Ranged behind, are household fixtures; strangest, these, of
all quaint mixtures, varying from
precious ornament to cloth for
underwear, which J. Pluvius, observing, does his best to ruin, serving from his reservoir some extra
showers. Frankly, he don't care. At
the head of the procession, is a very
chic possession, though the title in
it is but temporary—for the day; in
dress of generalissimo, they'll soon
perform fortissimo, though none who
hear them can decipher what it is
they play. Chinese bands have all
a habit—circumstances never crab
it—of performing foreign music
that's most inappropriate, be the
ceremony christening, or spectator's
eyes are glistening with tears at
sight of corpse that's borne to resting-place, in state. Yet this musical miscarriage is much commoner
to marriage than to burial, since
former lends itself far more to jape.
By this taken, the hard sledding
of the end of Nok-nee's wedding is
enlivened by a burlesque from which
none of them escape.

At long length, policeman beckons. Each in the procession reckons that there's time to cross the Maloo with the greatest dignity. Musicians seize each instrument, and from the same, with best intent, blare forth "God help all sailormen, this stormy night at sea." Scarce have they gotten under way, when traffic cops red lights display once more. By this time half the band is well on the Maloo, the hooter of a motor-car the warning sounds, "Come not too far," so round they turn, to safety fly as fast as they can go. Occurs another interval; the band, the bride, the gifts, and all, obstructing most of Thibet Road while waiting in despair, when one again there comes a lull, a green light flashes out to gull them to a new attempt. The band strikes up the self same air, and this time gets half-way across before confronted with the loss of life and limb and uniform if they don't turn and flee from menace of oncoming tram; the cornet player sounds a "damn" or something very like it unmusical Chinee.

One-half the band gets safe across, and waits. The other, at a loss to know which is the safest course, jump back to starting place. From either side of the Maloo comes now much musical ado; a species of duet is being played with airy grace. A third attempt is later made, and this time safely is essayed the crossing of that part of band that twice was left behind. United, the musicians raise a sort of hymn of fervid praise, while the main body 'cross the way uneasy are in mind.

Their gravest fears are justified. 'Tis only when at length they've tried a dozen times to journey on, succeeding, bit by bit, to edge nearer the Maloo's line, and each time stopped, that they incline to permanent despair and ultra-pessimistic fit. Meanwhile the band, quite out of breath, yet loyal to the very death to those who have employed them at fairly substantial wage, determined that they will do or die, start up another tune whereby the bride's tears to divert and her attention to engage.

'Mid all this fuss small boys are seen—as since time started, boys have been—to raise the banners they're engaged to carry; and false start to make, which causes all the rest behind them lift burdens with zest, and girding up their loins onsay to play expected part. Thus back and forth the shuttle weaves, and with its weaving each time leaves a fraction of its weary length in safety o'er the way but ere it has accomplished this, the hour hand of clock, I wis, has marked, withal, the passing of the better half of day. And just as soon as all have passed in safety and 'twould seem, at last, that nothing there remains to view of the exciting chase, spectators turning round to leave, in great amazement soon perceive another long procession that has come to take its place.

R. R. L. P.

We understand from a Peking visitor that the Hai-ho River is ice-bound, and that steamers are having difficulty in getting into Tientsin.

The lengths to which a certain type of Chinese fanatic will go in the campaign of hatred against Christianity is remarkable. On Christmas Day, whilst Mr. Matheson of the Rickha Coolies Mission and his numerous helpers, both Chinese and foreign, are in the streets of Shanghai carrying their message of cheer to thousands of Chinese coolies, and distributing gifts in the name of the One whom they serve, an anti-Christian assembly is to be called at the West Gate by the Anti-Christian Federation of Shanghai. Anti-Christian speeches will be given, to be followed by a blasphemous farce entitled "The Real Appearance of God," and pagan songs and dances. At the same time an anti-Christian booklet will be distributed among the people. The Federation decided upon these measures at a meeting on Monday. It is to be hoped that the Chinese police will, for the good name of their people, put a stop to any such meeting, which cannot possibly be approved by the masses of decent Chinese, and which can only appeal to mob sentiment. Dr. Tsai Yuen-pei, Chancellor of the Peking National University, is reported by the Chinese press to be one of the speakers.

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THE SOUTHERN POWER ATHWART THE YANGTZE

Canton's Refusal to Accept any Half Measure of Recognition from the Powers or to Deal with a Concert: Readiness to Reciprocate Regarding Treaties

BY GEORGE E. SOKOLSKY.

The policies of the Nationalist Government vis-à-vis of the Powers are not easy to describe at this moment in view of the meeting between Mr. Miles Lampson, the British Minister, Mr. Saburi, of the Japanese Foreign Office, and Mr. Mayer, of the American Legation, with Mr. Eugene Chen, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nationalist Government. Some changes in policy may be the result of these conferences, although it is not to be believed that such changes will fundamentally alter the following generalized view of the situation.

Britain's Friendly Gesture

The Nationalist Government can no longer regard itself as a province shouting that it is a nation and accepting any proffer of recognition made by a foreign Power. Even when the Nationalists held only the city of Canton, they called themselves an independent state, but no one took or could take such a claim seriously. In those circumstances, they demanded recognition and did not get it. To-day, they are in control of south China but are not asking for and will not accept mere regional recognition. For, regional recognition implies a division of China into parts and the Nationalists cannot admit that China is divided permanently. They are, therefore, apparently inclined to postpone any suggestion that the Powers recognise them as the government of the whole of China, until such a time as such recognition could no longer be withheld.

On the other hand, reverting to an oft-repeated phrase, a friendly gesture on the part of any Power, sincere in deed as well as in the mere phraseology of diplomacy, will result in a response in friendship on the part of the Nationalists. The visit of Mr. Miles Lampson to Hankow is regarded as a friendly gesture. It will result in a complete change of the international relationships of the Nationalist Government, even if there is no recognition, formal and specific of that Government by Great Britain.

The Goose that Lays the Eggs

The character of a friendly gesture is indescribable. What may be friendship on the part of one nation may be offensive when offered by another. The importance of Great Britain in this situation is that the trade of China, the foreign trade, is still predominantly with Great Britain. As the Nationalist Government are faced with the more serious problems of stabilization in their own territory, they have to consider the orderly development of foreign trade, for from that comes increased national revenue. With all the plans this Government have for the building of railways and improvement of governmental agencies, they require a larger revenue even than has been dissipated from year to year by the Tuchuns and a good share of that revenue must, at present, come out of foreign trade.

It seems absurd to think that the men who have been planning so systematically the destruction of the power of their enemies, cannot plan for the building up of their own state, and it is therefore equally fatuous to believe that they will kill the goose that laid the golden egg. In a word, to kill British trade because of politics is to cut off so much revenue, which the Government requires. On the other hand, without entering into recriminations at all, it is necessary to remember that many political events have occurred and have been used by the Nationalist Government which involved Great Britain and which were used to stir the people against Great Britain. This cannot be ended in a day and even during the period of negotiations, it cannot be anticipated that all anti-British agitation will end. But on all sides, in Hankow, everyone praised Mr. Lampson's coming on his own initiative. They praised the fact that he broke through the barrier by calling first on Mr. Chen and that he has done more to help British, and more generally, foreign interests, by this friendly gesture, than could have been accomplished in any other way.

Powers and Treaties

In this discussion, reference has been made to the Powers and the Treaties. So far as the Nationalist Government are concerned, no treaties exist except as they agree to their existence. In a word, if a Power declines to have anything to do with them, they decline to acknowledge that that Power has a treaty with that part of China which they control. If a Power is friendly to them, the treaties may continue to exist, even the current ones, until they are altered, but those Powers which do not acknowledge the separate and definitive existence of this Government must not expect that Mr. Eugene Chen will have any knowledge of any such thing as a treaty. This, of course, is presumptive and places both China and the Powers in an awkward position, for after all the signatory to the treaties is still that Government which claims its seat in Peking.

But, following the same realism described in yesterday's article, the Kuomintang is willing to risk its position with the Powers if the Powers can afford to risk their position in the provinces under Kuomintang control. In a word, Mr. Chen's attitude is bound to be, "If you regard us as rebels and outcasts, we shall not let you operate in those parts of China which we control." As force is the only reply to this, and as the Kuomintang is convinced that the Powers will not use force, they have carried this policy forward to its logical success, namely that the principal Powers have, at any rate, acknowledged the existence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nationalist Government by calling on him. Having done this, they are in a position to discuss the status of the treaties.

A New Struggle Begun

There starts a new struggle. The Nationalist Government does not recognize the existence of a concert of Powers in China. It is willing to deal with individual Powers. It is willing to alter treaties individually. But it will not recognize the Diplomatic Corps or the Consular Body. Mr. Chen made that clear in Canton when he returned a communication from such a body and I understand that the policy is to be followed on all, except social, occasions. In a word, if the Nationalist Government is willing to be friends with Great Britain, that does not at all involve it in a friendship with France and vice versa. But more serious is the fact that this policy attacks the Most Favoured Nation Clause which is the keystone of the foreigners' treaty arrangements in China. In the alteration of treaties, the Nationalist Government will probably, will almost certainly, refuse to include a Most Favoured Nation Clause. In effect this will mean that if they suspect a Power of having predatory intentions in China or if for any reason, international politics, let us say, they do not desire to give one nation as favourable terms as another, they will surely not grant them.

The general sense in Nationalist circles is that the logic of events is with them, as, if they can provide an efficient Government, if they can provide unity and order, no one will quarrel with them over details. The only legitimate interest a friendly Power can have in China is trade and perhaps education etc. If a Power has greater interests than those, that is, if a Power seeks to establish herself in China for predatory purposes, as they call it, they why should China not regard such a Power as an enemy and fight her?

* * * *

Customs and Extraterritoriality

The details of international relations, that is, the Customs, Concessions, extraterritoriality and the presence of foreign supervisors over Chinese Government departments, are now being discussed in Hankow and it would perhaps not be just to go too much into such questions at this time. As I understood their ideas, the Nationalist Government did not want a patch-work re-arrangement. They are seeking a whole solution of these questions but they cannot be treated that way as they are too complicated and involve too many huge interests. The fact remains that throughout the troubles in Canton, the Customs were not seized. A 2½ per cent. surtax was placed upon goods which the Government collected and kept. The fact is that the Government require revenue. They not unnaturally regard it as absurd that revenue from their territory should be sent to their enemies. It is a matter of importance to the foreigners that this situation should in some way be changed, as the complete solution of the Customs question may be postponed to 1929 if no revenue from southern territory goes to Peking. If, however, nothing is done, the Nationalist Government may proceed to act without benefit of the Powers' consent. In making this statement I am quoting no one and claiming no official as an authority, but it may nevertheless be accepted as a substantial representation of the situation.

Regarding the Concessions and Extraterritoriality, it is contended that the Nationalist Government again will take a reasonable view towards those nations which are friendly to it and an aggressive and unreasonable view toward those who insist upon disregarding it. Thus far, in no place has a valid attempt under Government auspices been made to interfere with a foreign Concession. Of course, during the agitational period, threats were made and the situation for a time in Hankow looked very nasty, but the fact cannot be overlooked, that the foreigners had almost no vessels and no landing parties to land in Hankow during the worst days. Most of the destroyers were sent away to avoid wintering in Hankow and had to be recalled when much of the trouble was over. Had there been a valid intention to destroy the Concessions, there would have been no power to resist the soldiers and mob of Hankow. But it did not happen.

The Programme Fixed

But the foreigners must understand the temper of those in control of the Government. They might palliate; they might be willing to postpone. But the programme is fixed. Ultimately, and that date cannot be postponed indefinitely beyond their ability to unify the country, they expect that all clauses in the treaties which they find unbrageous and "unequal" must be altered. I have used the word altered and not revised because that is the word they use. And that is their intention.

THE STRIKE PLAGUE IN CANTON

Banks Now Assailed: Terms Which Would End in Ruin for Everybody

BY AGNES FUNG

In view of recent telegrams reporting that the Canton Government has had to introduce special repressive measures to check capricious striking, this article is of much interest.

The occurrence of strikes in Canton has become more or less an everyday affair, so that people have grown to look upon them with disinterest, and in some cases with amusement. The most recent strike, however, is one that cannot but arouse the attention of the most indifferent, and that is the strike of the bank employees. The fact that the banks have stopped operating, is causing much anxiety to people who have dealings with them, and therefore there is much concern shown in business circles.

The nine banks involved in the strike are the Bank of Canton, Oriental Bank, Southern Bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank, Tai Chung Bank, Hing Chung Bank, National Commercial & Savings Bank, Far Eastern Bank, and Kewah Bank. These banks had been running smoothly, and although strikes took place left and right of them, they paid no heed but went on as if nothing could perturb them. Things, however, began to change when a union for bank employees was organised. It was formed by the clerks of lesser importance in the banks, and had not more than 200 members, including all the officers, who, in spite of their unwillingness, were compelled to join. Early during the year the men demanded that their salary be raised, and in the presence of a mediator, satisfactory terms were settled, while each employee had an increase according to his salary. Thus was the possibility of a strike averted, but as we see it now, it was only postponed.

Thirteen Demands

The bombshell burst on December 4 when, in the afternoon, letters were received by each bank from the General Employees Labour Union and the Union of the Bank Employees, demanding that the 13 terms which they had presented were to be accepted, and a satisfactory answer received before 6 p.m. the next day, and threatening to strike if the request was not complied with. But while they were waiting for the next day to come, the employees posted themselves in groups of three or four at each bank to be on the watch so that nothing could be removed. The news that one of the banks was planning to close the premises for good, brought eight of them to its doors to prevent the plan being put into action. Red flags were stuck outside all the banks. A reply was given on December 5, but not what they expected. The gist of the letter was that the terms were too hard to be accepted.

The answer was taken as a refusal, and on December 6 all the employees struck, surrounded the buildings and occupied them. The bank authorities have sought the aid of the Government to bring about a compromise, but until now, nothing has been arrived at, mostly because of the absurdity of the clauses. At present many big companies are suffering from this suspension, for Chinese New Year not being very far off, the companies have sent their last batch of goods to Canton, only to meet with a strike which prevents them from getting the invoices and bills of lading; and thus the goods cannot be delivered.

Of the 13 demands which I am going to translate, there is one which has not been stated in the Canton papers, therefore it will be omitted.

The Union Alone Decides

1. All bank employees, excluding the manager and the assistant manager, must be obtained from the Union. A non-member cannot be used. When a new bank is opened or an old bank wishes to increase its staff, it must have the consent of the Union, and the new employees will have to receive a certificate from the Employment Bureau before he can work.

2. A bank cannot, without reason, dismiss, transfer to other places, or ill-treat any of the employees. If it intends to close, it must let the Union know beforehand, and if, after investigations, the act is justifiable, can proceed with the Union's consent. But a compensation, consisting of 12 months' salary, should be given to each of the employees, and in addition a sum of $20 for expenses while he looks for another job.

3. If any of the Union members sustains injuries while active in the bank's service, the later should pay for medical expenses until he becomes normal; if he becomes helpless because of the wound, he should be given a pension of $2,000, and if he dies as a result of it, his family should be paid $3,000. When an employee is sick, the bank must be responsible for the payment of the doctor's bill and medicine, and during the period of his absence, he will also receive his salary.

4. When the Union puts out a notice for a day of rest, to take part in a parade or a meeting, the bank cannot prevent the members from attending, while those who take a holiday to work for the Union, must not have a part of their salary deducted.

Impossible Monetary Demands

5. Beginning from this year, September, the Union members should have an increase in their salary as follows:—those earning $1 to $20, double pay, $21 to $30, 60 per cent. increase, $31 to $40, 40 per cent. increase, $41 to $60, 30 per cent. increase, $61 to $80, 20 per cent. increase, and $81 and above, 10 per cent. increase, and payment should be made according to currency used.

6. All commissions obtained in loans, mortgages, buying and selling, by the bank, must be equally divided among the staff members disregarding the difference in salaries, at the end of every six months, when the accounts are closed for that term.

7. At the end of every 12 months, each member should receive double pay for that month.

8. Every bank employee is entitled to 24 days of leave each year, but if he does not take the whole of it, he should be paid for the extra days.

9. If circumstances are such as to result in a strike, the employees must be maintained by the bank, and at the same time be paid as usual. During that period, they must not be ordered to leave their dwellings, which belong to the bank.

10. The above terms will be put into effect on December 5, 1926, after both parties have signed the agreement.

11. The above terms are issued on December 4, 1926, and a satisfactory reply is expected before 6 p.m. on the next day, failing this, the whole body will strike.

12. Before an answer is received, nothing can be removed from the banks.

Men's Suicidal Folly

Looking into these demands, one wonders what the workmen are trying to get at. It is impossible for any bank to keep on operating on such terms, and the result will be that most of them, or perhaps all, will close, and the employees be out of work. It is apparent in all their deeds, that the majority of them have not much education, lack common-sense and farsight. There is an example for them in the strike of the newspaper employees a few months ago, when demands of the same tenor were made, only to be met by a refusal and a closing of all the newspaper offices, except those run by the Kuomintang, and the throwing of many men out of work. But they seem to close their eyes and to be deaf to all that has happened before and around them, and this continues to be as it is now, they will wake up one day to find that they must seek further fields to exploit.

For the last year business has not been going well with the banks, and with the exception of a few, they have barely been able to keep themselves afloat. Four of them are but branch offices, and registered in Hongkong, therefore they can stand the strike better than the others, and these are planning to have no branch office in Canton if nothing can be done. According to the sixth clause, the bank makes profit only to fill the purse of the employees, so it might as well stop functioning. But another difficulty presents itself here, for clause No. 2 states that it must pay 12 months' salary and etc., so the banks will not be able to open or close. In a word, to close is difficult, but to open is more difficult.

Government Alone to Blame

For all these troubles, no other than the Government is to blame. To occupy the premises during a strike is against the law, and how much more so when this is done before the strike takes place? But Government pays little heed, and by such silence and unconcern, when the workmen are actually breaking the law, shows that it encourages and abets the miscreants. As it is, the buildings are as good as public properties, and if so, why not confiscate them altogether and thus make an end to the trouble? The strike is on now, the Government lifts its head, looks around, descries something wrong, thinks it the ripe time to appear, and then comes in as the grand mediator, to settle the disputes and at the same time reap a good name. It is reported that a compromise will soon be arrived at, and if this should be the case, it is most certain that the strikers will get the best of it.

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FOOCHOW LACQUERED WARE

A Widely Scattered Industry and An Ancient Profession: The Secret Out

Lacquer is lacquer, says the globe trotter. Show me a piece that looks good, no matter whether it comes from Ningpo or Swatow or even Japan, and that is the piece I want. It is a typical attitude, but when I expressed it to the longbearded elder of the Shen Shao An family of lacquer artists he with difficulty suppressed a very un-Oriental sniff of disgust with the westerners who know so little about lacquered ware.

If that is true, he argued, why was it that the gold medal was given to the exhibit of my family at San Francisco when your honourable country held its international exhibition? Japan had her wares there, so did many sections of China. But we received the highest award. And why has Foochow lacquer won at other great exhibits?

All lacquer is lacquer! Yes, and all jade is jade.

After visiting him and several other shop-owners here in Foochow, after reading what the encyclopedias have to say, I am convinced that his pride is well founded. Lacquer work is an ancient profession, so old that the books do not give an estimate of the time of its beginning. That date goes at least so far back that students of the exquisite work done in Japan merely say that "the Japanese imported the art from China where it was probably discovered and first developed." The Japanese artists certainly improved upon the decoration of the pieces during the centuries of the popularity of such work, but they have not improved upon the materials or the methods worked out by the Chinese.

Local Specializations

Here in China the industry is rather widely scattered. In most sections of the country there are craftsmen who prepare some forms of lacquered furniture or baskets or bric-a-brac, some regions specializing in a particular form or colour. But wherever one inquires he is always referred to Foochow as the centre as well as home of the best general lacquered ware. This is acknowledged even by Foochow's rivals in trade. A ramble along the streets of Fukien's capital gives ample proof of the hundreds of hands employed in making the wooden or silken bases for the artists to work upon, and trips to the shops will show an amazing assortment of objects made or being made. Great screens, highly decorated, furniture fit for the palace of a mandarin, tables and tea-poys and chairs of foreign design, idols and figures of the "Eight Fairies," toilet and jewel boxes almost as daintily decorated as the jewels they will contain, card and cigarette cases, picture frames, vases both large and small,—these are found in the better shops. Baskets, lunch boxes with two or three trays, trunks, intricately arranged boxes with mirror and drawers for combs and cosmetics, chopsticks, and similar objects furnish the stock at the cheaper establishments. One can suit his taste and his purse in Foochow streets.

The work is done, as so much of China's work, in small shops where the employees rarely number over half-a-dozen. The heads of shops estimated the total number of such workshops as about 150, probably more rather than fewer. This number does not include the makers of crude, cheap products, who were not even considered as lacquer-makers by the men questioned. Aside from the shop owner, there is an average of two men working in each place, about 300 all told, and the number of apprentices is slightly less. These must serve for a period of five years for their fee and a trifling sum annually as a Chinese equivalent of "pin money." When their apprenticeship is ended they are paid 250 cash per day, and their food, a sum equal to about five dollars gold per month.

Secret Formulae

The *lac*, the base of the varnish, comes from Shensi, costing at present about $1.30 Mex. per pound. Each establishment works this out into the grade and colour desired, the chemical formulae used being secrets handed down from father to son, very occasionally sold to others in the trade. This is, of course, true only of the shops making the finer grades of ware. Farther down the scale there is no attempt at secrecy.

Roughly speaking there are four grades of lacquer made and sold in Foochow. The best is that produced by the descendents of Shen Shao An, who is said to have built up his business and reputation in the reign of Chien Lung. The circular issued by one branch of this family (there is considerable rivalry among the various branches, but all seem to turn out "number one" goods) states, "I, Cheng-Hee, the eldest grandson succeed to manufacture according to my ancestor's method." Gold is said to be an important part in the formula used by this family, accounting for some of the lustre so noticeable in their output. The second-grade work is done by quite a group of important shops. The chief of these as far as dealings with the foreign community is concerned is Wang Tai-mi whose place of business is on Nantai Island where most of the foreigners live. Many of his patrons consider his ware equal in finish to the best in Foochow. Quite a distance behind the makers of such ware come the shops where cheap toilet cases, chop sticks, etc., are made, and the fourth grade work is done by the makers of lunch baskets and what is known as "rough lacquer."

The process is a lengthy one and, except in its final stages, uninteresting. For a truly fine piece of ware the manufacturer needs about eight months time from the selection of the wood to the delivery of the finished article. This allows for a thorough drying of the wooden base after it has been put together and for a careful drying of the lacquered product. Ordinary work can be turned out in a month or six weeks from the time it is ordered. The actual lacquering requires from 10 days to a month, depending upon the fineness of the finish.

The wood ordinarily used is *nangmak*, a local product brought down from the upper Min River. For less valuable ware a fine grade of pine is occasionally used. One shopkeepen reported that for his best work he uses a flower-wood base, but he showed no samples and the finished product would completely cover the fine grain of this wood so his claim can be taken for what it may seem worth. All of the men interviewed complained because of the inferior quality of wood furnished during recent years, the blame being almost equally assigned to laziness on the part of the woodsmen and to rapacity on the part of up-river bandits.

First Operations

After the chair, table, tray or what-will-you has been framed by the cabinet maker there follows the first actual operation at the lacquer shop when a kind of putty is used to fill all cracks and irregularities in the surface. For all except the very finest ware this is made by mixing pig's-blood with the lacquer, but all artisans agreed that this gives an impermanence to the lustre. It looks just as good when new as does the ware smoothed with solid lacquer, but time shows its inferiority. After this operation there are many coats of dull coloured lacquer applied, each being hand-rubbed to a fair degree of polish but not to what the craftsmen term "true shine." Then come the coats to be brought to a fine polish, each requiring its proper time for drying before it can be properly polished. For the better pieces there are said to be required 25 to 30 coats and polishings.

If there is to be a floral or scenic design, that is now put on by skilled draughtsmen. At the present time there is very little originality shown in this direction, most of the paintings being copies of tried and true favourites. Most of the salesmen can show you books of designs from which you can select what you wish. The one exception along the line of originality appeared within the past four or five years, a line of goods with tasteful designs of bamboos, pines, and other trees worked out in silver leaf upon the brilliant black lacquered background. It is beautiful and seemingly permanent, so has won almost instantaneous popularity. This silver leaf decoration, as that of paint, is covered with a coat or two of colourless lacquer, the whole then receiving a final rubbing to give the final gloss to the finished product.

An Important Phase

One of the most important phases of all the work comes, strangely enough, after the actual work is finished: The greatest of care must be exercised in the drying, lest the lacquer crack or crizzle. An atmosphere as humid as possible is the greatest aid so the workmen prefer to finish their best pieces in the time of the winter or spring rains. Because the rains do not cover all the year the men have evolved other methods. Large cupboards with bowls of water set on each shelf for evaporation serve in some shops, while the richer and better located ones have built subterranean vaults in which the lacquered pieces are stored until dry.

All that has been so far said refers only to lacquering upon wooden bases. But among the most beautiful and delicate pieces of Foochow lacquer are the vases of lacquered silk, light, waterproof, and susceptible to a lustrous polish. The shapes are made of wooden pieces, cleverly cut to fit together in such way as to furnish a foundation for the silk yet to be easily separated after the silk covering has "set" and then drawn out of the narrow mouth of the silk vase. Over this wooden model are pasted three or more layers of fine silk, "pasted" however with lacquer. After the silk form has well set, the many coatings of lacquer are given to the outside and the decorations, usually of scenery, are painted. A heavy coating of lacquer is also given to the inside to give still further protection to the silk. One of the most popular finishes for the silk vases is a solid gold colour.

Some Prices

The prices of the finished pieces range all the way from almost nothing to $100 or more. Sets of furniture have been known to sell for many hundreds of dollars. Of the pieces seen in the most recent tour of the leading shops, the highest prices was an image of one of the "Eight Fairies" This piece, at a "one price shop," was catalogued at $80 Mex. The pair of large vases shown beside the fairy are listed at $70, the small vases at $5. A cigarette box which automatically presents one cigarette at the slot every time the box is lifted costs seven dollars. Hexagonal jewel boxes range in price from $7 down to $3. These are all of the best grade lacquer.

Of the very best selected from the second grade shops a few sample prices are given. A gate-legged tea table in dark green with a decoration of Chinese cash was $16. Sets of tea-poys ranged from $14 for the nest of four on up to $30 and $40. Vases were priced at from $2 to $15. Jewel boxes can be bought from a dollar or so on up to five or six dollars. Chopsticks are furnished in a variety of shapes and colours at prices running from 200 cash (about 18 to a dollar) or more for a set of ten pairs. A novelty in these is to have the Chinese surname put on each chopstick in gold lacquering.

It is impossible to get even an approximation of the total output of these hundreds of workmen in a year. The estimates of various manufacturers varied widely, all the way from $100,000 to $1,000,000. Because there is no closely organized guild of the industry one cannot get general figures. However, the exports to other sections of China and to foreign countries indicate the immense proportions of this trade. The Commissioner of Maritime Customs gives the following figures for 1925:—

	Hk Tls.
Exports to Chinese ports	110,857
Exports to foreign countries ..	59,728
Grand total	170,585

From these figures it can be recognized that an estimate of half a million dollars for the total output is very conservative indeed. As indicative of this it may be of interest to note that when the South Side branch of Shen Shao An was recently destroyed by fire a total of $30,000 worth of finished goods went up in smoke. He had that much ready for shipment.

Inquiries as to the possible future of the craft met with interesting responses. The men who made medium priced goods designed to catch the fancy of tourists predicted a big future. One of the outstanding merchants drew a pessimistic picture, saying that there was little chance of increase as long as China's internal life is so upset—and he saw no chance for any change for the better along that line. Wang Tai-mi brought the accusation against the buying public that, "they do not want fine goods. They would rather buy something that looks good, even the its base is pig's-blood lacquer, if they can get it for a cheap price. What inducement is there for making the finest ware?"

But whether there is inducement or not, it is to be hoped that the real craftsmen in this industry will not die out and that they will continue to make the gleaming, iridescent bits of beauty which for so long have contributed to the fame of Foochow. The world would be poorer without these jewels of wood and silk and varnish. The elements are prosaic, but when they are mingled with human brains and skill and artistry they give joy to the eye and to the seeing heart.

CALIFORNIA IN THE WINTER

Beautiful Landscape Effects: Rhodadendrons of Asia: A Natural Playground

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

San Francisco, Nov. 18.

What a paradise California is in the winter! I am not a native son of California, for if I were the importance (and possible truthfulness) of what will appear in this column would be considerably curtailed. For the Californian knows without fear of contradiction that there is only one spot in the world, which is "God's own country;" that there are only two kinds of people in the world, those born in California and who live here, and those who were born elsewhere and who would like to live here.

Speaking as one who was not born here but who migrated to this sunshine several years ago, I must confess that I have not found a climate such as this state possesses. Winter and summer, it is as near perfect as can be secured, and he would be a grumpy sort of soul who could not content himself, even if he could not revel in life, in this most delightful Western region. There are two million tourists expected to visit the state from other parts of America during the tourist season which has now started. Four reasons are given for this optimistic prediction—namely (a) the railways are receiving more inquiries than ever before about the state, (b) the interest of people who have to live in the bitterly cold Eastern state is greater, (c) a spirit of travel is abroad in the land, and (d) general prosperity throughout the nation has provided the necessary capital for travelling. So California is to have a regular tourist flood from now on to March.

Furthermore, it is expected that at least 10 per cent. of the people who will come here from every state in the Union will remain behind as permanent residents, and that another per cent. will go back home determined that when conditions allow they, too, will go out to live in California. When Shanghai and the North of China are getting cold rains and snows, the people snuffling with heavy colds and kindred ills, the inhabitants of balmy California will be camping out if they wish to, basking in the perpetual sunshine which has made the State famous throughout the world.

Winter Landscape Effects

To the plant lover from the bleak Eastern and Middle states of this country, the first visit to California is a great revelation, for he leaves behind him a bleak, bald landscape with its naked and leafless appearance, and finds this Western state flourishing in a wealth of evergreen foliage and a riot of colour and bloom. The very commonest and in many cases the most ordinary foliage which Californians use in such profusion will not grow in the Middle West and the East, such, for example, as the graceful Monterey pine, the Monterey cypress, the acacia in many forms, the Veronicas, the heathers and a host of others. Mr. Donald McLaren, who is well-known in San Francisco as a plant enthusiast, in a recent article mentions the eucalyptus, the redwood, the date palm and many more, which are so extremely common and so generally used in California which are only familiar to the Easterner from photographs, or he may possibly have some puny greenhouse specimens, coddled and half alive. Australians in China will probably be familiar with the glorious eucalyptus ficiolfia, the red flowering gum, with its magnificent burst of colour about the time of the year, but the American who has spent his life back in the winds of New England or any of the other dozen Eastern states literally stands aghast when he sees the orgy of beauty of Californian highways and hills. Indeed, he is as much surprised as would be a Scotsman suddenly transported from the Orkneys to Los Angeles.

Then at this time of the year we have the striking acacia baleyana, with its tremendous bundles of lemon yellow trusses in full bloom, which will last straight on through to January.

This writer has travelled widely, and though knowing little about plant life generally knows enough to believe that nowhere in the world is this acacia baleyana so seductively beautiful as in California. Speaking about this a day or two ago to Californian, he made the remark that he did not think the rhododendron is so prolific elsewhere as it is in his state. Then I was able to enlighten him, and the information I gave to him may be interesting to repeat here. It is true that all varieties of rhododendrons reach great beauty here, but if you want to see the true native glory of rhododendrons, growing in the wildest, most topsy-turvy profusion, go to West China. In the higher altitudes of Kwelchow, straight on through Yunnan to the extreme border of Burma and beyond, right on through to the Himalyas is, in my opinion, the home par excellence of the rhododendron.

But reverting to the subject of California in the winter, I would give advice to any Shanghailander who wants to get out of China for the months from December to March that there is no better place on the earth to which he can come. In Southern California you can camp out in the open if you want to. If you want to row, or fish, or shoot, or ride, or mountaineer, or do anything else you can stay at San Diego, Santa Barbara or any other of a dozen places, and within an hour get by motor-car to the tops of the mountains and the perennial snowline or to the balmiest valleys. This institution is unique, so far as I am aware.

Advertising the State

Three or four years ago a few of the prominent business men of San Francisco got together and decided that they would do all they could to let the public of the United States know what California had to offer them. They formed the Californians, Inc., a non-profit organization, whose business it is to advertise widely in national magazines, soliciting inquiries from prospective settlers. The fund of information that has been collected during this period relating to all parts of the state is gigantic, and no single institution has done more to increase the population of the state more than the Californians, Inc., not even the wide-awake Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles. The consequence is that at the present time some 5,000 families are regularly coming to the state, and each of them—with few exceptions—themselves become boosters within a short period.

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THE BOOK PAGE

NEW THINGS AND OLD IN CHINA

THE VANISHED EMPIRE.—By Putnam Weale. MacMillan & Co., London, 1926.

At such a time as this when the world is waiting to see whether the Kuomintang can succeed in putting some semblance of reality into the Chinese Republic, Mr. Putnam Weale's book makes an appropriate appearance. Starting from mythical times and carrying his narrative down to the flight of the Kuominchun from Peking last July, Mr. Putnam Weale has contrived an admirable survey of Chinese history in something less than 400 pages of large type. Illuminated by his easy style and by the journalistic instinct for the "human element" which never deserts him, the book is eminently readable, although it is certainly somewhat lopsided. Not much less than half of it is devoted to the intrigues of Peking since the opening of the Tariff Conference on October 26, 1925. These latter pages give very little notice to the doings of the South, although there is a lengthy digression describing the murderous attack made on the Shameen on June 23 last year with some sound reflexions on the fatal blunder that was committed in not immediately avenging it.

There are many of us who never tire of reading the history of ancient China, the word ancient also including those later years of the Manchu Dynasty which now seem almost as remote as the days of the dodo. Mr. Putnam Weale has done his work remarkably well in so small a space, although, in respect of the war of 1839-40, he gives undue prominence to the part played by opium as compared with the intolerable exactions and caprice of the Chinese officials which were the true cause of the war. The story of the Empire is made to end effectively with the secret flight of the boy Emperor from the Japanese Legation, where he had taken refuge from Feng Yu-hsiang's persecution, to Tientsin. This part of the story, however, is somewhat marred by what looks very much like a dig at the ex-Emperor's English tutor. Those who know Mr. Johnston also know very well that he would be the last person on earth to "encourage" the Ching Emperor to do anything which might conceivably expose his majesty to the rancour of the politicians.

In the last section of the book Mr. Putnam Weale has adopted the diary style which he used so effectively in "Indiscreet Letters." It includes some graphic and illuminating stories, as for instance, that the revolt of Kuo Sung-ling against Chang Tso-lin was due to the influence of his wife, who was a member of the Chinese Y.W.C.A. and had been set on to stir up her husband by Mrs. Feng Yu-hsiang. The story also of how Kuo and his wife were captured (she dressed in man's clothes) is most dramatic. And we cannot forbear from quoting the anecdote of what Tuan Chi-jui said when Lord Willingdon went to discuss with him what ought to be done with the Boxer money:

> The British delegate asked how, in Marshal Tuan's opinion, the money should be spent—on education?
>
> The Chief Executive lifted his hands and exclaimed with extraordinary force: "Anything but the students—anything."

Opinions may differ as to the value of recording in detail these interminable intrigues leading to the final collapse of the authority of Peking. But apart from the interest of the story which every reader in China certainly will find, it is perhaps important in these changing times to show how Chinese sentiment is swinging away from what always was, in point of fact, a capital as artificial as Petrograd was from the point of view of Russians. Loyang, Nanking, and even Wuchang have more hold on the sentiment of the Chinese people than Peking and if the Nationalists succeed in establishing themselves in China, we should not be surprised to see them remove the seat of Central Government to some position geographically more central. But perhaps the more immediate question is whether the Nationalists will be able to overcome that strong feeling for provincial autonomy which, as Mr. Putnam Weale quite rightly says, bursts forth every time the strong hand of autocracy is removed. These, however, are speculations which lead us rather far from Mr. Putnam Weale's book. In the main, it is highly to be recommended as a volume of great interest and much suggestion. Also it recalls one or two facts which are in danger of being forgotten,—for instance, the sympathy so particularly shown by Great Britain for the young Chinese Republic at its birth.

NEW STORIES ABOUT CHINA

PLUM BLOSSOMS AND BLUE INCENSE AND OTHER STORIES OF THE EAST, by James W. Bennett and Soong Kwenling. Published by the Commercial Press, Shanghai, $3.50 Mex.

This is a delightful book of short stories. Perhaps one could call them essays, but they are so engrossing that it is impossible to lay it aside when one has started reading it. In it one finds tales of China and the East generally. They are full of charm and sweetness. One was listed for honourable mention among the 30 best distinctive short stories for 1923 by the American Society of Arts and Sciences in its year book of the American Short story and another was placed seventh on the previous year's list. Mr. Bennett is well-known as a writer for magazines abroad and his latest book will be read with none the less interest than there which have preceded it. We understand that he has been given a contract for another new book by one of America's leading publishers. The originality and the freshness of the stories are most absorbing. The parts which have been translated from the Chinese are excellent and help the reader to understand the quaint styles of different Chinese writers. As a Christmas present, there could be nothing better. It is well worth the price and one will get one's "money's worth." We can well recommend it.—W.H.C.

THE STORY OF A GREAT DOCTOR

THE BELOVED PHYSICIAN SIR JAMES MACKENZIE.—A biography by R. Macnair Wilson. John Murray, London. 12/-

The story of this good and famous physician is enthusiastically and sympathetically told by one of his former pupils. Sir James Mackenzie began life in a very ordinary manner; he left school at fifteen, at his own request, and became apprentice to a chemist of Perth city, where he earned £5 only in his first year, and at the end of six months he ran all the way home with half of that sum in his eagerness to give it to his father. He began the study of medicine at Edinburgh, when 21 years of age, and by much hard work for he was not a brilliant scholar—he made such progress as to win three medals in his last year at the University. Then followed years of hard work as a general practitioner at Burnley in Lancashire. It was while busily engaged in practice there that he made the careful investigations and achieved the discoveries which ultimately made him famous as a heart specialist. At 50 years of age he moved to London, and with great courage fought for and won the recognition he deserved, and rose to the highest rank of his profession. Towards the close of his life, when world-famous, he left his lucrative practice and the eminent circle he adorned, and went to labour among the people, in order to cure the diseases common among the poorer classes. Sir James Mackenzie wrote important books and invented instruments of precision; but this biography shows that the personal factor counted much in enabling him to achieve his greatness. He died in 1925, at the age of 71, highly respected and greatly beloved, having done much by his skill and teaching to relieve suffering and brighten lives, and to advance the knowledge of medical science.

A COLLEAGUE OF PRESIDENT WILSON

EIGHT YEARS WITH WILSON'S CABINET. 1913 TO 1920.—By David F. Houston; Formerly Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of the Treasury. With a personal estimate of the President. In two volumes. Doubleday Page & Co. Garden City, New York. Chinese American Publishing Co. $25.

It is claimed that David F. Houston knows more about the late President Wilson and his administration than any living man. He saw the President oftener and talked with him more intimately than any other member of his cabinet. He sets forth in this book the secret and momentous discussions about the problems that led to the world war, the President's real thoughts about the Lusitania disaster and the notes sent to Germany. With the exception of the letters written, day by day, in London by Ambassador Page, sent to President Wilson and subsequently published, there is no such intimate record extant of the process by which America was forced, step by step, to declare war on Germany. Nor is there any greater vindication of that action. The student of history will find in this book the notes between the two Governments quoted verbally and exactly and can follow meticulously the tergiversations and evasions of the German Government in its correspondence with the United States. In these days when, once again, attempts are made to treat the responsibility for the greatest catastrophe in the world's history as a debateable question, this book makes its timely appearance and is a contribution of the first importance. It is not issued for purposes of propaganda. The events it records are already sufficiently distant in point of time to be examined in their correct perspective and a judgment given without partiality. Great Britain has no revelations to fear and the clear light, cast by the quotation of the original documents, is the best apologia we could ask to prove the sincerity of our motives and the reluctance with which we hazarded our national existence to keep our pledged word to Belgium and stem the tide of militarism that threatened to overwhelm the world.

Just before the world war broke forth America had a controversy with Mexico that so much resembles happenings we are accustomed to in China that it is worth while referring to it before we follow the main stream of the narrative.

The Breach with Mexico

On April 8, 1914, a paymaster of the U.S.S. Dolphin, with a boat's crew landed at the Iturbride bridge in Tampico, Mexico. Martial law was in force at the time and it was forbidden to make landings at the bridge. They were all arrested by a Mexican officer.

"As he was proceeding up town he was met by a superior who ordered him to return to the landing and await instructions. In an hour and a half orders came from the commander of the Mexican forces to release the men. General Huerta expressed regret. He explained that martial law was in force etc. Admiral Mayo regarded the arrest as a grave insult. He replied that the naval authorities had not been notified of the fact that landing at the bridge was forbidden and, in any event, arrest of the men was not the remedy. He demanded that the American flag be saluted with special ceremony by way of apology. The demand was referred to Huerta who ordered a refusal to comply. President Wilson on April 14 despatched the American fleet to Mexican waters. Notes were exchanged and Huerta agreed to salute our flag if we would return the courtesy. The President declined and demanded an unconditional salute by six o'clock in the afternoon of April 19. Huerta refused and it was reported that a German steamer with munitions of war was approaching Vera Cruz.

"Meantime there had been other incidents, such as the arrest of the orderly of the U. S. Minnesota and the interception of a message from our Government to its embassy in Mexico, which indicated a studied purpose of Huerta and his people to single out the United States for insult. On April 20 the President appeared before Congress to ask its advice and co-operation. He specifically asked its approval of the armed forces of the United States, in such ways and to such an extent, as may be necessary, to obtain from General Huerta and his adherents the fullest recognition of the rights and dignity of the United States. The President expressed the hope that this country would not be forced into a war with the Mexican people. They were not to blame. They had no government. The conflict, if it came, would be only with Huerta and his adherents and our object would only be to have respect shown to our flag and to restore to the people of Mexico the opportunity to again set up their own laws. On April 21, on orders from the President under protection from the fleet, a force of Marines from the United States warships landed at Vera Cruz, seized the Custom House and, later, occupied the whole city. Diplomatic relations were promptly severed. The incident led to the mobilization of the National Guard and in time there were more than 100,000 men on duty on the Mexican border.

That Picture and This

Now, this incident is exceedingly instructive. At the present moment the British Government and British people are in bad odour in this country. We are regarded as being "imperialistic" and are accused of taking advantage of the "unequal treaties" to lord it over China. Yet we have received infinitely worse treatment from military leaders in China than America received from Mexico. Our countrymen have been arrested by the military, kidnapped by bandits and pirated by desperadoes on the high seas. There has been an organized boycott of our trade for a considerable time and and every species of insult has been hurled at us by irresponsible pamphleteers. On infinitely less provocation America, which is not "imperialistic," seized the principal port of Mexico, which has no extra-territorial -laws or "unequal treaties," and was prepared to launch an army into the country unless an unconditional apology was forthcoming for the arrest of a few marines who were only detained for an hour and a half, without violence and almost without inconvenience, and were released with an expression of regret for what had occurred. America had no designs on Mexican territory and no wish to go to war with its people but President Wilson, the man who was "too proud to fight," felt it incumbent on him to defend the honour of his country and uphold its dignity. One could wish the book were written in Chinese so that those responsible for the present unrest might learn the courtesy towards its representatives that one great nation expects from another.

The Declaration of 1917

The notes on the sinking of the Lusitania are, as has been said, of surpassing interest. They are as clear as noonday and it would be well if this part of the book were given wide currency for, already, the details of that great crime are becoming obscure in the mind of the man in the street. The torpedo that sank the Lusitania had as far-reaching results on the world's history as the first gun fired at Lexington. But we turn to the scene in Congress when President Wilson read his declaration of war.

"Monday evening April 2, 1917, will stand out in my mind as the date of the most dramatic scene I ever witnessed and of the most historic episode in which I ever had a part. That evening, the President, at half-past eight o'clock, appeared before the joint session of Congress to advise that body that the recent course of Germany was nothing less than war against the government and people of the United States. The hall of the House of Representatives was crowded. The floor was occupied by the members of the House and Senate, the Diplomatic Corps, the Supreme Court and the Cabinet. Seats for the Supreme Court had been placed in the pit in a half circle just in front of the Speaker and the members of that body were in their places on either side of the Chief Justice. The President began reading as soon as quiet prevailed and, as he proceeded I found myself watching Chief Justice White. I knew what his reaction would be but I did not anticipate that he would show his emotion so strikingly. Shortly after England entered the war he came up to me one evening at a social gathering put his hand on my shoulder and said, in a low voice: 'I wish I was 20 years younger. I would go to Canada and volunteer.' He listened with interest to the President's review of the submarine controversy. When the President said, 'The present German submarine warfare against commerce is a warfare against mankind,' he gave a vigorous nod. He listened with evident satisfaction as the statement characterizing armed neutrality as ineffectual, as likely only to produce what it was meant to prevent. But when the President said, 'There is one choice we cannot make, we are incapable of making; we will not choose the path of submission,' he did not wait to hear the rest of the sentence. He was on his feet instantly leading the Supreme Court and the entire assembly. His face was a study. It worked almost convulsively and great tears began to roll down his cheeks. From that moment to the end he was vigorously applauding everything. He had a profound realization of the issues at stake and, particularly of the part England had played in the world; of the meaning of her institutions and of the menace to the world of her overthrow by Germany. He knew what war meant, having been a soldier in the civil war and he was willing and anxious to stand the horrors of war again for vital principles. The message was striking in its boldness and completeness. It was obvious that it would greatly impress and stimulate our people and hearten the allies. It was worth many battalions."

America had its pacifists as all nations have. They are right-hearted but wrong headed people. This is an anecdote of one of them.

"The pacifists, headed by La Follette, were opposed to any resistance. I asked Captain Bill McDonald, the Texas Ranger, what he thought ought to be done. He said, 'I would give La Follette a swift, hard, kick where it would do most good and take his tobacco away from him.' A little severe, perhaps, but, maybe, better than making martyrs of them."

Every patriotic Briton should buy and read Houston's account of his eight years with Wilson's Cabinet.

THE SUFFERINGS OF ARMENIA

THE PEOPLE OF ARARAT.—By Joseph Burtt, F.R.G.S. The Hogarth Press, London. Limp cloth, 3/6.

The writer of this book concerning the Armenians has personally visited Armenian centres, and been in close touch with refugees in many places; he has been much stirred by what he has seen, as well as by what history tells of the great sufferings of this much-persecuted people. The object of the book is threefold: (1) to make clear to the civilized world the things which the Armenians have suffered; (2) the responsibility of other nations towards them; (3) the possibilities as to their future. Gladstone said "To serve Armenia is to serve civilization". Unfortunately, beyond expressing pity and giving temporary relief spasmodically, the leading nations seem to have done but little to save from extinction this ancient nation which, from over four millions in 1915 has been reduced to less than half that number, under circumstances which have horrified the world. Over a million of the remnant now inhabit the Republic of Erivan, under the suzerainty of the Union of Soviet Republics, and are struggling for a national existence amid many difficulties. Other large numbers are scattered as exiles in Syria, Greece and elsewhere. Under promises of protection by the Western Powers, some 200,000 refugees settled in Cilicia, but they were abandoned to the Turks when Kemal Pasha took advantage of the jealousies in European politics and turned defeat into victory. This is called a betrayal of the Armenian people, and the writer of this book urges Great Britain to fulfil her share in redeeming the promises made by the Western Powers to the Armenians, to enable them to take the honourable position among nations to which they are entitled by their character and traditions.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES

A movement is on foot to establish children's libraries in Paris, of which at present there is only one example. At the end of the war great efforts were made in the devastated regions by English and American Quakers to provide reading matter for the children. Books were presented and permission was obtained from the authorities to house them in the schools or other suitable public building. But the "library" became a sort of best parlour, open once a month and, even so, hedged about with restrictions. One of the difficulties is the provision of paid librarians, for whom in these hard times there are no salaries. But the main hindrance is the point of view of the French, who, cultured people as they are, look upon the library as a dearly bought privilege instead of a necessity. In New York there are 40 children's libraries. These work hand in hand with the schools and, besides helping and encouraging the children to choose books, serve as a place where they can do their homework without interruption. Formerly the French used to buy books instead of obtaining them from libraries. Now that this is impossible the need for libraries of all kinds is urgent. Story-telling to children has reached Paris. The playground idea is also finding some response. It is hoped in the near future that the children's library will be provided, if not by private initiative, then by the State itself.

Mr. Warrington Dawson, the American novelist, who lives in Paris and who speaks French as fluently as he does English, has been awarded the first new "Médaille de la Langue Française" by the French Academy. He writes in French and his books are being translated into English!

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TRACING CIVILIZATION BY LETTERS

ORIGINE ET EVOLUTION DE L'ÉCRITURE HIEROGLYPHIQUE ET DE L'ÉCRITURE CHINOISE. PAR. WON KENN.—Paul Geuthner. Paris. 10 francs suisses. Tome. I.

The writer of this interesting little book begins by asking the question "Can we trace human civilization to one single source?" He points out that some writers think that the first Chinese peoples came from the West (*i.e.* Central Asia) and then suggests that Egypt and China—the two greatest nations of antiquity—may have drawn their civilization from some place in Western Asia, *i.e.*, from a common source. He tries to prove this by reference to the two systems of writing (Egyptian and Chinese) and finds various resemblances therein. The earliest kind of Egyptian writing was a rough sort of drawing of some object—a "pictogram" such as are found carved on rocks and on ancient implements, *e.g.*, a man killing a hippopotamus. This picture was later naturally separated into two, a man and a hippopotamus, and still later the sign for man was simplified into an arm holding a spear, and here we have the origin of writing. Amongst such early pictograms are the sun, the moon, a man, a boat, an arrow, a pyramid, etc. Then a slight change might be made to develop the original idea, *e.g.*, a man leaning on a stick means an old man, whilst a man dancing means a joyful man. Such signs were used by the Egyptians 4,000 years before the Chinese. Then since "man's laziness has worked for the progress of writing" the signs were abbreviated and, for instance, the head of an animal was used instead of drawing the whole animal. But the Egyptains also invented another method. The pictogram had two parts, a picture and a sound and by using the sound the same sign could represent one or more ideas so *e.g.*, the same sign is used for a "beetle" and for the verb "to be" since both sounds are alike in the spoken language.

The next development was by choosing a certain number of characters and giving them the consonantal sound (dropping the vowel) and in this way the Egyptians invented the alphabet—*e.g.*, "hill" (sound qa) became q and "mouth (sound ro) became r. The 23 letters chosen were sufficient for the sounds in the Egyptian spoken language. There was, however, another movement and the two ideas developed simultaneously. Since the same character could have several meanings a "determinant" was added to show the meaning "mr" meaning "eye" has an eye with it, "mr" meaning "serpent" has a serpent and hence a number of signs (determinants) were used to enable the meaning of the "sound" to be understood; or we might say there were two parts in each pictogram, one which suggested the sound and another which suggested the meaning.

Those who have any knowledge of Chinese characters will have seen that there are many similarities between the system employed by the Egyptians and that used by the Chinese. The earliest Chinese character writing is pictographic but of course, with this method, it is extremely difficult to express many ideas and hence the Chinese found, as the Egyptians had done, that a character has two uses, a pictorial and a phonetic and by using the sound of a character many other ideas could be expressed. For instance yang (羊) means sheep, but the sound "yang" also means happiness, and so 羊 (yang) was also used to mean happiness. This however, might result in confusion and so a sign was added to show the meaning *e.g.* 羊 (yang) with two dots underneath means "happiness". (This we might call the determinant).

So with the use of a certain number of determinants the Chinese can represent an enormous number of ideas which have the same sound in the spoken language. Briefly it may be said that the Chinese and Egyptian languages are alike in that (1) Both languages (Chinese and Egyptian) are pictographic, (2) Break up the picture into their component parts, (3) the early form of each represents almost the same objects (people, birds, fish, utensils, etc.), (4) The sign is used both for the thing it originally represented and also for other ideas with the same sound, (5) Both use determinants (radicals).

The author therefore comes to the conclusion that the two are "sister writings" and that if there are great resemblances it is owing to the "laws of the human mind which are shown just as much on the banks of the Nile as on those of Yellow River." All can agree with this conclusion, but this does not prove that China and Egypt have a common source or came from the same place. The author has succeeded in writing a very interesting book and though it may be doubted whether he has managed to do much towards answering his original question he at least has presented a good many facts about the two languages in a very readable manner. The first volume has aroused our curiosity. It will be interesting to see how far the author proves his thesis in the second.

H. BUNCE.

TRAVELLERS' WARES

ENCOUNTERS WITH ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE. By B. Ifor Evans. London: Hodder and Stoughton. 10s. 6d net.

BYWAYS OF THE TROPIC SEAS. By Hermann Norden. London: H. F. and G. Witherby. 16s net.

How the world shrinks! A century ago a young man finished his education with a "Grand Tour," which extended to a year's wandering over a portion of Europe. Now, like Mr. Evans, who was one of the fortunate holders of the Kahn Travelling Fellowship, he takes nothing less than the whole world for his oyster. Mr. Evans travelled East, talked with Zaghlul Pasha in Egypt, with Ghandi in India, Mr. Fairbanks in California, and with a host of less important, but more voluble people. He was happy indeed in some of his encounters. Great good luck brought into his railway carriages in China a young lady missionary from Birmingham who could tell of adventures galore. Then there was the entertaining psycho-analyst, and, most curious character of all—the Englishman turned American who had made a fortune by persuading the women of the Middle-Western back-blocks to make a virtuous necessity of rouge.

Mr. Evans writes with knowledge and discernment, in charmingly graceful and limpid English. Some of the opinions he gathered from "men on the spot" are enlightening; but for all this his book is vaguely disappointing. "I started out from England," he says, "with a respect for theories; I return with a respect for facts." This disillusionment is, of course, interesting—to Mr. Evans, but the parts of the book that are sicklied o'er with the pale cast of his introspection make dullish reading for the rest of us. He falls, too, into some curious inaccuracies. A writer ought not in 1925 to be encouraging people in the idea that the English in India are properly called "Anglo-Indians," when the term has been appropriated by the Eurasians, and, therefore, incontinently dropped by all whites. That high official surely never spoke of ill-bred young "puppets." And there are other such signs of carelessness.

Mr. Hermann Norden travels in different wares—vivid descriptions of exotic corners of the world like the Solomon Islands, where there are still cannibals holding civilization at bay in their bush fastnesses, where parleys are perilous, and excursions among the beautiful islands only for the wary. The main part of his book is about Bali, in the Dutch East Indies, a land of such strange anomalies as Hinduism without caste or any sacredness in the cow. At a Balinese execution

> The condemned man, dressed in white, and with flowers behind his ears is taken to the execution field. He pauses before a temple of the dead to pray. Afterwards two men lead him before a counsellor of the court, who reads from a lontar-palm leaf the judgment.....An executioner now places himself in front of the condemned man, and asks his consent to the act.....The answer must be: "Do your duty." The executioner steps back, pulls a kris from out of his girdle, then dances forward, and thrusts the knife into the condemned man's chest.

The book is full of such intriguing information, and is enriched by a fine collection of photographs.

P. R.

THE PRINCE

A Living Picture of the Man in Himself

H.R.H.: A CHARACTER SKETCH OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.—By Major F. E. Verney, M.C. Illustrated. Hodder and Stoughton. 25s. net.

The Prince of Wales is a vivid figure, writes the "Morning Post" reviewer, in the imagination of millions of men who never heard of Mr. Baldwin or Mr. Lloyd George. He is talked of, as Major Verney, who knows him so well, reminds us, in places where the Great War was never more than a vague rumour. His fame extends far beyond the boundaries of the British Empire, for his personality is discussed in the capitals of foreign countries which he has never visited. So that it is a matter which concerns the whole world to know what manner of man he is, altogether apart from the high position he holds and all the trappings of circumstance which encumber him.

The author of this psychological study, who has all the facts at his command and a vast deal of intimate information, lays stress on the difficulties and disabilities of one who had no chance of choosing his profession. Others, be they sons of statesmen, soldiers, dustmen, clerks, or peers, have no need to adopt a calling until some special aptitude or preference has disclosed itself. The Prince of Wales, on the contrary, was born into his vocation, and the plan of his intensive training for it was settled before he had got as far as the school-room and a governess. Fortunately, there was no Baron Stockmar to make this plan a form of un-English servitude, and he has always been allowed a measure of freedom for the expression of personality. That is why we rejoice in a natural, human Prince to act as the King's deputy, instead of being oppressed by a synthetic product, a species of royal Robot.

Plutarchan Stories

Major Verney tells us all about his early training, showing how he conformed to the customs of free fraternities, while at the same time conscientiously remembering his larger duties and responsibilities. He makes good use of anecdotes of the kind which Plutarch gave in his "Lives" to illustrate points of character. As a Naval Cadet at Osborne, he obeyed the ruthless dictator of "Fork in the beam" and "Dogs of war," earning the nickname which is a proof of the right kind of popularity. One of his companions summed up his career there as follows: "There was a certain amount of 'jaw' about his arrival, and he got the weather-eye for a bit, but there was no nonsense about 'The Sardine,' he was just like everybody else."

At Oxford he began by being the usual "Fresher," living at Magdalen like any other member of that joyous society, hunting and playing "soccer" and talking with anybody and everybody and attending or cutting lectures like the average man. If he played his "comic" instruments to the discomfort of neighbours who were trying to read behind a sported oak, they would retaliate in the customary fashion. On one occasion half-a-dozen men assembled underneath his window and began a symphony of protest played on tin whistles, banjos, and saucepans—until the Prince set his bag-pipes blaring in full blast and routed the performers! A good story is that of his surprise visit to a friend's room, where a red-hot Socialist who had been a nail-maker at the age of eight, and at 33 worked his way to Oxford, was brooding aloof and alone over his cosmical grievances. To dispel the sense of awkwardness the Prince took a glass of beer and began to sing the "Red Flag," accompanying himself on his banjo. When the Prince had gone, the Socialist shed his class-consciousness and proposed a toast: "The Prince of Wales, God bless him!"

Envoy of Empire

He has always been capable of the human touch in any such little critic ordeal. In the Army he was well liked for his frankness, sense of humour, and unwillingness to evade any sort of hard work. The superhuman precision of Guards' drill was not beyond his enduring capacity. During a five minutes' break a sergeant asked him the time-honoured question: "Sir, what are the two finest things on earth?" "A Grenadier and a woman," was the reply, according to tradition. Another sergeant told Major Verney what they thought of the Prince as a recruit officer: "There was not much of 'im, Sir, and 'e didn't say much. But, in a manner of speakin', Sir, when 'e did open 'is mouth, 'e opened it."

He would not have been human if he had not at times keenly felt the strain of his position, confessing that "a day to myself" was his idea of true happiness. During the war the iron entered into his soul, for he could not possibly be permitted to indulge that eagerness to be fighting which is the Grenadier's religion. His love of hunting and readiness to take a toss are the outcome to some degree, no doubt, of the desire to avoid publicity—there is real privacy in the first flight!—and to assert a man's right to take the risks which are the spice of sport.

As an envoy of Empire he has been an unqualified success, thanks largely to the fact that his ineradicable interest in human nature has made him a "good mixer" without any trace of the *faux bonhomme*. Always in hard condition, bright as a star, the hard work and still harder play of the Britains beyond the seas have always been well within his physical powers. He cheerfully undertook the job of shaking hands with everybody in a four-figure crowd, beating every White House (Washington) record at the cost of playing golf badly next day. The humour which is dramatic because it arises naturally out of the occasion is one of his best assets. Thus, when he talked with an old-fashioned Dutch farmer in South Africa and was told the number of his children, his reply infinitely delighted his audience: "Thirteen! That's supposed to be a very unlucky number. You'd better do something about this before we meet again!" Major Verney has written a human book, without any strangulation effects of the Court Circular idea, concerning a very human personage, whose spacious soul in small compass is one of the biggest things in our world-wide commonwealth.

THE BLACK WILDERNESS

A Fine First Novel by a Very Young Author

BLINDNESS.—By Henry Green. J. M. Dent. 7s. 6d. net.

The first novel by an author hardly out of his 'teens is a really remarkable achievement. John Hare is one of the ultramodern Public School boys, who is deeply interested in literature and art, as well as in the young friendships which Disraeli described so admirably, but cares little for the routine of work and games. Extracts from his diary are given, and we learn how and why he admires Carlyle and Gogol, and catch him quoting the famous epigram from *Potash and Perlmutter*: "Polygamy is a matter of opinion, not of morality." He is accidentally blinded, and the rest of the book shows how the loss of sight changed his mental outlook and compelled him to reconstruct his cosmos. His self-communings are described with the minute realism of a Russian drama of introspection, and as are the reactions to the catastrophe of his mother and of his old nurse as she sits by the fire and brews her cups of tea.

"Q" once satirized the pre-Raphaelite detail in which he excels in a description of the contents of a draper's window, but we are bound to admit that Mr. Henry Green does it very well indeed, showing how his *personae dramatis* are influenced by their inanimate yet intimate associates.

Love in a Mist

In the chapter entitled in Sitwellian fashion "Picture Postcardism," the soul of Joan, daughter of an intellectual derelict, cast out of his pleasant, comfortable vicarage long ago and drowned deep in squalid, poverty-stricken selfishness, is dissected with the small bright, keen-edged tools of analysis. It is an amazing bit of technical virtuosity. Joan takes John out for country walks, and he thinks of her as June, unconsciously making her the heroine of an unimagined romance. They feed on one another's shyness, and he hopes he has found a companion to guide him through the black wilderness:

"Everything is black. Before, even when one shut one's eyes, the eyelids were red if one were outside, but light now has been cut off from within. Nothing but black. One gets desperate sometimes, you know. There are times when I would like to kill myself, really, I mean."

But she alas! did not understand all the writing stuff he talked. The eyes of the soul, which alone can serve his need, have yet to be trained to serve his purposes. The story comes to a mystical ending, when John goes to London, to feel himself once more in the full, fierce stream of living. He has "some sort of a fit," he tells his dearest school friend afterwards, and a strange uplifting love bears him into a white flood of light he would bathe in. "The sun rises for us again very suddenly," said a blinded soldier who had found himself again at St. Dunstan's.—"Morning Post"

THE WORK OF PIERRE LOTI

"PIERRE LOTI—THE ROMANCE OF A GREAT WRITER."—By Edmund d'Auvergne. London: T. Werner Laurie.

Pierre Loti's masterpiece, "The Iceland Fisherman," is one of those fascinating and rare books which, quite apart from their literary value, make us wish to know the writer as a man. The note of human compassion, and sympathetic understanding of the joys and sorrows of the simple, touch deftly our inner chords. It is this compassion and understanding that constitute the underlying and appealing background in Loti's character: the ever-open door through which humanity and the animal world found a way to his heart. In his other works there is revealed to the careful observer the varying psychical elements in the make-up of this sailor-writer, a singular and a strong personality whose egotism was quickened by a large and varied experience.

In "Pierre Loti—The Romance of a Great Writer," Mr. Edmund d'Auvergne gives us a most interesting study of Loti's life. The author, in his foreword, states that he was drawn to write on account of his love for the man and his life; but in spite of this deep sympathy, or, we should say better, because of it, the biography is obviously an honest one. We are made witness not only the hero's "grandeur d'âme," but also to his many weaknesses, so that by the time we have reached the end of the book we have had a picture of Loti the man as he really was, and can turn to his literary work with a new understanding and a more complete appreciation.

Apart from its informative value, "Pierre Loti" makes extremely interesting reading. We follow Loti in his peregrinations to civilizations in decay and to temples and places surviving the dust of centuries; and we are told of loves and love affairs in all four corners of the earth; while amid the glow of ever-renewed experiences we are reminded again of the unforgettable romance with a green-eyed Circassian girl, the "Aziyade" of one of his most beautiful novels.

To add to a charm and purpose that in any case would go with the book, there are 15 interesting photographic reproductions showing Loti from his early childhood to his later years, and pictures of people and places related to his life and career.

E. P. H.

Nowadays there are probably comparatively few folk who can share Sir Henry Hadow's claim to have read "Bleak House" 12 times, but even that does not constitute a record of devotion to a favourite book or author. Byron recorded in his journal that he had spent a wet day reading Scott's "Legend of Montrose" for the 50th time, and added, "I have read all Walter Scott's novels at least 50 times." It is recorded, too, of an eminent French scholar, Pierre Huet, who became Bishop of Avranches in 1630, that from curly youth he never failed each spring to reread the idylls of Theocritus. As he lived to be 92, Sainte Beuve calculated that Huet must have repeated this labour of love well over 70 times.

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THE WOMAN'S PAGE

PERILS OF FEMININITY

"But Why Worry"

The difference between feminism and femininity needs no definition. The very sound of the words indicates that one is deadly serious and one verging slightly toward the frivolous. It was from the former ranks that we recruited an interesting sentiment recently, to wit, that "male supremacy is not in danger and never will be so long as woman remains addicted to that devastating drug—Fashion."

The words, found in a pamphlet issued regularly by an international feminist organization and known as "Equal Rights," strike different impressions, depending upon whether one is addicted to feminism or merely to femininity.

But to carry on with the righteous indignation of the little paper a trifle further, we find it said that any danger with which men may be confronted from the inroads now being made by women in the world of affairs, can be instantly checked through a little larger does of the "devastating drug." "Style will be the drug which will ultimately defeat woman in her aspirations." Reporting a recent national conference of women's style-setters, the paper goes on to say that skirts will be shorter and tighter in the season to come. It proceeds, "True it is that when woman won her emancipation, she immediately went in for bobs and shingles as proof of her emancipation. She severed all ties with tradition on this score in favour of male sense, but the break with tradition was only partial. And the break, it must be acknowledged, was encouraged less by the dictates of sense than by the ineluctable feminine instinct to please" (Here we see the frivolity of femininity entering into the realm of feminism) "Women cut their hair only because they thought they looked prettier that way. No amount of hygienic logic would persuade them to take that step if it did not appear to enhance their faculty for pleasing. And the best proof that the move was not one dictated by common sense is the news about shorter and tighter skirts." Now just why shorter and tighter skirts should "cramp their style" is not clear, but apparently certain women feel that such an attire is less competent than—for example, trousers.

If one dares to throw the be-flowered hat of sheer femininity into the controversial ring, one may venture to state that the drug has had and still has its remedial uses. Surely even feminists would not wish to deprive the world of all the little touches which soften the contour of costume, which make humanity a little less stark and reality a little less real. Artistic dress, like any art, is a supposed improvement over nature, and every woman knows that her nature is decidedly enhanced through care in dressing.

Humanizing Touches

One might even go so far as to say that to achieve the artistic in any line is the equivalent, if not the superior, of any purely practical considerations. Not that woman's dress achieves the artistic often enough to minimize a necessary element of rarity, but one and all of us cherish the elusive ideal.

Time was when men did their bit toward garnishing the landscape. Olden court scenes had cavaliers strutting in an elegance which would add complications to the career of a modern business man, but how dreary for us all if history showed no such brightly apparelled spots. And now, though the autumn tweeds for men may take on a fascinating variegation of colouring, ranging from mauve tints to ruddy reds, and a few cardigans make a feeble gesture toward the fanciful in men's dress, it would seem that in the essential things women must do what they can to provide the charm of novelty to modern dress. Then, why should the feminists in their mannish gear wish to remove the last vestiges of the artistic. Life has been accused of getting drabber as it gets more modern.

That fashion acts like a soporific drug to women and lessens their likelihood of eminence in the various careers can be better judged by classifying all the ladies who eventually "arrive" at places their ambitions lead, and what they wear. Most business girls will tell you that a sense of being smartly dressed gives them self-confidence. Feminine psychology tends towards a need for "bolstering" and if clothes do this, even when the designs for clothes have all been re-touched by machinating men designers, who take this method of keeping women in their place—at the foot of the ladder—why should our good friends the feminists seek to knock the prop out from under their less agile sisters. Perhaps these find climbing a dizzying process anyway.

Like so many things feminism is all right for those who like it. But feminists are born, not made, and feminism is a natural—some would say unnatural—art, not a borrowed or acquired. That is why fashion magazines will go on selling at their devastating rate, and dispensing all manner of insidious excitant drugs for feminine consumption.—J. O'L.

Designed and drawn for "North-China Daily News."

ROSE GEORGETTE WITH EMBROIDERY AND FLOWERS IN A DEEPER SHADE.

FLIGHT

Copper kettle will your bubbling chuckle,
Yellow curtains framing dusky night,
Velvet tea-gown with a shining buckle,
You are warm with comfort . . .
but the wind spells flight!
Flight that takes me where the grey clouds thicken.
Far from shelter of the valley-land;
Winter rain that makes my pulses quicken . . .
"Two lumps? I am sorry . . . I did not understand . . ."

Olga Achtenhagen.

AND WHAT OF MEN'S HATS

Unknown Origin of Headgear

There was a noticeable increase last spring in the number of young men who appeared hatless on the streets, especially at the luncheon hour, says the "New York Sun." The fad seems to be spreading to men of maturer years, but its life probably will not be longer than that of the high collar craze of the gay 90's. Though there are cycles in headgear as well as in planetary motion, there is little danger of our reverting to the hatless state of the ancient Romans.

The hat has a long and generally honoured history. If it has ministered to the vanity of coxcombs, it has also served man as a comforter and protector in both peace and war. It comes down to us from such remote antiquity that we never shall know who invented it. An old stone carving shows the Hittite weather god wearing a tall, tapering top piece with a narrow turned-up brim. The same hat is found on images in Asia Minor, Crete and Cyprus. Narrower at the top and surmounted by a spike, it distinguishes the Assyrian kings. In Greece hats were circular in shape. During most of the classic age they were little worn except by youths, workmen and slaves. Perhaps the young were them to be different from old fogies who went bareheaded.

Hats in Early England

In early England hats were common among all classes, and they took many shapes. In the reign of Richard II the sugar loaf or thimble variety was popular. The flat cap made so familiar though Holbein's portraits brings up memories of King Hal. Often it was decorated with the brooch and side feather. In the period of the English revolution the hat took on a political significance, a gay feather covering distinguishing the cavalier, while a high crowned broadbrimmed hat without band or feather was the badge of the Puritan.

The three-cornered cocked hat, perhaps the most becoming headpiece man ever wore, was the dominate note of 18th century costume, but along with the powdered periwig and other trapping of the old order, it passed into oblivion after the American and French revolutions. The silk hat reached its zenith in the '30's of the last century and still flourishes in Europe, though at present it is not in highest favour in automobile ruled America. The English bowler, the "dicer" of remote days, the "iron hat" of more recent seasons, after suffering a temporary decline, appears to be coming into favour again.

There seems little more likelihood of modern civilized man casting man casting aside such an ancient friend as his hat as of his discarding clothing altogether.

A NEW BEAUTY CODE

The Facia' Daily Dozen

"Exercise your face" is the motto of a new cult of beauty in London. The instructions include:

"Exercise your face in the omnibus, the train or the car. Never lose an opportunity to work the facial muscles.

"Pout the lips as often as possible. This keeps the lips full and young and helps to charm away the lines of the mouth.

"Smile whenever you have a spare moment, but do not on any account allow the eyes to smile too.

"Roll your eyes. Give the 'glad eye' to the whole world. Few people realize that the beauty of the eyes is only maintained through exercise.

"Sniff. Only those who are continually sniffing will develop fine, sensitive nostrils.

"Do not be afraid to bite. Biting and chewing develop the muscles of the jaw and give that clear, strong line to the profile."

Thoughtful

"Susan, these windows are a disgrace! The outsides haven't been touched."

"Well, ma'am, I did it for the best I cleaned the inside so you could see out, and left the outside so as the people over the way couldn't see in."

A CHRISTMAS PICTURE

At St. Faith's

At this time of the year the mind becomes kaleidoscopic Picture after picture slides through the recollection of Christmases spent in other places and ways. Even history leads to the scene, and we think of all the different ways that Christmas has been celebrated since the First Manger with its brilliant Christmas star.

When we wander through shops and see the panorama of gifts, we collect hundreds of impressions of the season. When we go to the numerous Christmas parties where wee tots sit with wondering eyes in contemplation of the warmth and brightness of Christmas which thoughtful and kind souls have prepared for them, we accumulate other impressions which come back in future years. Christmas is the season of contrasts, and in a place like Shanghai these contrasts are more marked than they might perhaps be in other places where the contrasts of different nationalities, different conceptions of life, differing backgrounds, might not enter in so largely.

Perhaps it was some such urge toward seeing every aspect of the season, coupled with recollections of other Christmases made more meaningful through doing one's bit for those less fortunate than oneself that led the footsteps to 52 Jessfield Road.

There can be found the symbol of the Christmas spirit in working order all year round. Tucked away from the main thoroughfare *via* a devious Chinese lane, one arrives at St. Faith's Settlement House. When we wander through shops and see the panorama of gifts, we collect hundreds of impressions of the season. When we go to the numerous Christmas parties where wee tots sit with wondering eyes in contemplation of the warmth and brightness of Christmas which thoughtful and kind souls have prepared for them, we accumulate other impressions which come back in future years. Christmas is the season of contrasts, and in a place like Shanghai these contrasts are more marked than they might perhaps be in other places where the contrasts of different nationalities, different conceptions of life, differing backgrounds, might not enter in so largely.

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MISS HENDERSON AND A PART OF HER FAMILY AT ST. FAITH'S SETTLEMENT IN JESSFIELD ROAD

The story of St. Faith's is briefly told—briefer told perhaps than its portal arrival at unless one knows the way. It was founded about four and a half years ago by Miss Maud Henderson, who left her Virginia home in America some years ago and since that time without a break has been devoting herself to being a friend to Chinese women and children.

Talking with this motherly woman whose brown eyes sparkle as she points out the chubby Chinese babies, many of whom have been with her since the first few days of their existence, one forms another indelible picture from the words she speaks. It is of the quaint Southern town, the home of a famous American Civil War general, Robert E. Lee, Here Miss Henderson passed her early life, here she was given a picture of the famous general by himself who little knew that one day this same picture would be hanging on the bare but friendly walls of a little Chinese orphanage, would be looking down on occasion upon hastily set up beds for refugees in the simple study of the matron of the orphanage.

It was back in those days, Miss Henderson assured her visitor, that the first flicker of belief in an orphanage in China was born. In the days when many glib tongues spoke of the "Open Door Policy" in far away China and Japan and when Commander Perry was contributing his portion to the history of international relations, an uncle of Miss Henderson's was writing stirring letters back to his native Virginia home. These, postmarked U.S.S. Pensacola, were read aloud in the family circle, and a little girl in pig-tails was gathering impressions. She was deciding, later on, when she was doing devotions in the town church that she would one day come out to this strange land which so intrigued her uncle, and that when she was here she would found an orphanage.

This has come to pass after many years spent in other forms of missionary work in China and now a family of 76 are gathered in the simple quarters in Jessfield Road. There is a day nursery where Chinese babies all padded for the winter come forward to tug at the skirts of a visitor, there is a schoolroom which sounds a little like the Tower of Babel when all the small mites are studying their lessons aloud, and there is an office in which one may see the knitted work which is for sale at the home and which has been made by mothers whose babies are kept at the Settlement. There is a Victrola which, alas, still stands in the shadow awaiting the charitable intentions of someone with records to spare. There are all sorts of impressions to be gathered of the kindness which must prevail at the home in which the children show bright faces to the visitors.

Already they seem to sense the fact that this afternoon they will go to the Toy Department of Whiteaway Laidlaws where each can pick out a small toy. Some 50 of their number attended the Union Club's Christmas party yesterday. Miss Henderson marshals them under her wing on such occasions and is assisted by her six Chinese teachers. Besides these outside entertainments it is hoped to have some real Christmas cheer in the little Settlement house itself, and already donations of clothing and toys are putting in an appearance.

Such donations come from both foreign and Chinese, who recognize the quiet good work of the Settlement. Not long ago when the cold snap descended upon Shanghai one Chinese friend sent a ton of coal to the work and the small group have other recollections of a goodly sum of money which was given by a rich family's small son who chose this way of celebrating his birthday instead of the customary feast. And when a visitor finally leaves the little colony it is with a definite feeling that the Christmas spirit is indeed at its best when applied all year round.—Jill O'Lantern.

THE KING'S WELCOME

When Thou wast born in winter-time
The Saviour of Mankind to be,
Came men of ev'ry sort and clime,
To worship Thee.

The Three Wise Men who from afar
Drew near, the wondrous Babe to see,
And in their wisdom found Thy star,
These worshipped Thee.

And those who waited in Thy courts,
Who sought from earthly things to flee,
And served by pray'r and quiet thoughts,
These worshipped Thee.

And shepherds who sat watching then,
Their flocks about the hills dispersed,
Unlearn'd, unletter'd, humble men,
These found Thee first.

Betty Askwith.

Unfortunate

It was a soiree musical. A singer had just finished "My Old Kentucky Home."

The hostess, seeing one of her guests weeping in a remote corner, went to him and inquired in a sympathetic voice:

"Are you a Kentuckian?"

And the answer came quickly: "No, madam. I am a musician."

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MAIL NOTICES

INWARD

DUE SHANGHAI:—

Per M.M. Angers ..... Dec. 25
Per P. & O. Kaiyan ..... „ 26
Per R.D.S. Pres. Adams .... „ 28
Per R.D.S. Pres. Grant .... „ 29
Per N.Y.K. Iyo Maru .... „ 29
Per N.Y.K. Hakozaki Maru .. „ 30
Per N.Y.K. Korea Maru .... „ 30
Per M.M. D'Artagnan ..... Jan. 7
Per C.P.S.S. Emp. of Russia „ 10
Per R.D.S. Pres. Garfield .. „ 11
Per P. & O. Morea ..... „ 11

OUTWARD

FOR EUROPE VIA SUEZ:—

Per B.F. Autolycus ..... Dec. 26
Per N.Y.K. Hakone Maru ... „ 27

FOR JAPAN, CANADA, U.S.A. & EUROPE:—

Per O.S.K. Paris Maru .... Dec. 26
Per R.D.S. Pres. Jackson .. Jan. 3

FOR MANILA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND VIA HONGKONG:—

Per B.F. Autolycus ..... Dec. 26
Per N.Y.K. Hakone Maru ... „ 27

PASSENGERS

INWARD

Per str. Kashmir, December 17. From London.—Lt. Cmr. W. Kingdom, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Lake, Miss E. Hartley, Lt. Cmr. W. Bardwell, Miss S. Harvey, Mrs. E. Copp, Mr. J. Lawrie, Mrs. S. Brian, Mr. J. E. Hayes, Mr. J. Zeisler, Mr. W. Dorfman, Mr. E. Williams, Mrs. A. F. Wilson, Mr. K. L. Lai, Mr. Y. C. Yu, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Badeley, Mrs. D. Hill, Mr. F. R. Barry, Mr. and Mrs. C. Stanton, Mrs. Pearce and two infants, Mrs. Navin, Miss V. Navin, Miss T. Navin, Miss M. Navin, Master B. Navin, Mrs. Wright and infant.

Per str. Aeneas, December 17. From Liverpool.—Mr. and Mrs. Brook, Mr. G. D. Butler, Mr. J. J. Baggallay, Mr. L. C. Earnshaw, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Fennell, Mr. A. E. Fenton, Mr. and Mrs. Fogshaw, Miss M. Hanaknwu, Mrs. M. Reader Harris, Mrs. and Miss Jack, Miss N. M. Jackson, Mrs. Alex Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. L. Lawrence, Miss Macgregor, Mrs. Malcolm, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Manley, Mrs. and Miss Polkinghorn, Miss A. Rintoul, Mr. and Mrs. Struthers, Miss M. A. Spinks, Mr. H. B. Woodford. From Singapore.—Dr. and Mrs. H. E. Siebert. From Hongkong.—Mr. F. A. Brown, Mr. J. Frost, Mr. F. S. Hoys, Miss C. Stonham, Rev. L. Mulany.

Per str. Shantung, December 19. From Southern Ports.—Mrs. G. C. Furness, Mr. W. C. Gomersall, Mr. W. Heckel, Mr. Cobb, Capt. Render Harris.

Per str. Fausang, December 19. From Northern Ports.—Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Blix, Mr. Catlin and daughter, Miss M. Bird, Miss R. Ellis, Mrs. Leval, Mrs. Malphas, Mrs. and Miss Russell, Miss I. Wilson, Mr. C. J. Hodges, Mr. P. Kenworthy.

Per str. Fenglian, December 20. From Northern Ports.—Miss Jennette, Mrs. Burgher, Miss Burgher, Mr. Burgher, Mrs. Bellomoff, Miss Broomhall, Capt. and Mrs. Gaze, Major Burkhardt, Mr. Johanson, Mr. Love, Mr. Crichton, Mr. Rosario, Mr. Llegh, Mr. Sonochin, Mr. Armstrong.

Per str. Loongwo, December 20. From River Ports.—Mrs. M. Proctor Smith, Mr. H. Hadden, F. R. A. Mrs. Hanbon, Mrs. H. Cornaby, Mrs. H. Kent, Miss Cockburn, Mr. Faulk, Mr. Borentzen, Mr. Keogh.

Per str. President McKinley, December 21. From Hongkong.—Mr. W. M. Awad, Mr. C. H. Benson, Mr. A. Benson, Mr. A. Brodsky, Mr. C. B. Brodsky, Mr. C. B. Brooke, Mrs. W. F. Cowen, Mr. E. J. Mathersill, Mr. K. E. Ming, Mrs. F. H. Morden, Mr. and Mrs. H. Odell, Lt. and Mrs. W. S. Parsons, Master Bruce Parsons, Mr. and Mrs. M. Pearce, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Read, Mr. F. Rippington, Commander P. H. Rolfe, Mr. F. A. See, Mr. L. A. Chretienne, Mrs. R. Derby, Mr. A. H. Fenwick, Mr. S. L. Frost, Mr. G. H. Gasgoun, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hunnex, Master Geo. Hunnex, Mr. and Mrs. Newton Johnson, Mr. R. R. Service, Mr. Carl Shank, Dr. P. T. Trinidad, Mr. R. Turnbull, Mr. and Mrs. Foster Turner, Mrs. Zinada Usankova.

Per str. Empress of Canada, December 21. From Japan.—Mr. H. H. Arnold, Mr. P. Colimbo, Mr. A. Mrs. and Miss M. Henderson, Mr. J. E. L. and Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. J. H. B. Manchan, Mr. Wm. Parr, Mr. T. E. Mrs. Master J. G. Skidmore, Master T. E. and Master P. H. Skidmore, Mr. R. E. Stowardson, Miss Lydia Trimole, Miss Grace Wasem, Mr. John Sullivan, Mr. C. L. L. Williams, Dr. Chin Chun Wong, Mr. A. Beattie, Mr. D. O. Russell, Miss M. Weir, Mr. R. B. Manchan, Mr. W. G. Bell, Mr. E. L. Hunter, Mr. F. Graham, Mr. T. Bardwil, Miss M. De Fallot, Miss O. Gruen, Miss G. Simon, Rev. Freeman Havighurst, Mrs. Miss M. and Master Robert, Dr. and Mr. Holman, Mr. G. Lynch, Mrs. J. L. McCartney, Miss E. Ploog, Rev. W. A. Mrs. Miss M. Shantz, Miss A. M. Young, Mr. J. L. and Mrs. Willis, Mrs. F. Master L. A. Hitchcock, Mr. S. D. Gerza, Mr. K. Kikuchi, Mr. Bryant, Mr. M. Bumpus, Mr. W. Jamieson, Mr. L. M. Wilkinson, Rubore Picter Paulowich, Leontuff Demetry.

Per str. Whanga, December 21. From River Ports.—Mr. A. Vella.

Per str. Hsin Peking, December 22. From Ningpo.—Mr. J. P. Gyrding, Mr. Fuccarine and Mr. Paton.

Per str. Chekiang, December [illegible]. From Northern Ports.—Mr. and Mrs. Possrecke, Miss Enright, Miss Aslet.

Per str. Luenho, December 22. From River Ports.—Mr. Lipporte, Capt. Lareal, Mrs. Arthur Duff, Mr. N. H. Grant, Mrs. H. C. J. Ball, Mr. and Mrs. V. J. Hawkings and family, Miss Gould.

Per str. Sinkiang, December 23. From Hongkong.—Mr. Witkowski, Mr. B. W. Enru, Miss Sara, Miss Oara, Miss Wolnizer.

Per str. Tungchow, December 23. From Northern Ports.—Mrs. G. Roy, Lt. McGonnigal, Master W. Pactow, Miss Van De Man, Miss Copehart, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Evens, Mr. Hinges, Mr. and Mrs. Bowdin, Mr. A. R. Kreulen, Mr. E. Shorter, Mr. Hill, Mr. Stulitmacher, Mr. and Mrs. Tipper, Mrs. Berg, Miss Upton, Mr. Bayce Kemp.

OUTWARD

Per str. Hsin Peking, December 17.—For Ningpo.—Misses Barlow, Miss Hall, Capt. A. Feral, Mrs. Day, Mrs. Van Tuben, Mrs. and Miss Fitch, Rev. Father A. Buch.

Per str. Wuchang, December 18.—For River Ports.—Mr. H. C. Reaker.

Per str. Szechuen, December 18.—For Canton.—Mr. H. B. Hawkins, Mr. Motatlik, Capt. C. H. Tandien.

Per str. Nellore, December 18.—For London.—Mr. L. M. Almoide, Master G. H. Bell, Mrs. D. Day, Mr. A. V. Pinson, Mr. J. J. da Silva, Mr. and Mrs. A. Waruke.

Per str. Shanghai Maru, December 18.—For Japan.—Mr. E. A. Dahlin, Mr. W. Stead, Dr. J. Jordan, Mr. L. Adler, Mr. Chas. Hugo, Mrs. M. Bischoff, Mr. A. Carstens.

Per str. Tuckwo, December 18.—For River Ports.—Master Bullock, Mr. L. A. Witt, Mr. Svensen, Mrs. McCartney, Mr. Rober, Mr. Butrick, Mr. and Mrs. Willis, Mrs. Rathbun, Mr. J. Gray, Mr. Calhoun, Lt. Cdr. Bardwell.

Per str. General Metzinger, December 18.—For Marseilles.—Mr. R. Dillon Corneck, Mrs. Dedieu and a child, Mr. and Mrs. Verrier, Miss Portier, Messrs. R. Rouait and C. Bouth, Mr. Labenski and two children, Rev. Father Bruno, Mrs. Gaussin, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ducaseou and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Lucas and a child, Messrs. C. Merien, F. Le Maire, C. Galot, F. Corre, J. Page, Y. Maout, P. Levenard, M. Monfourny and E. Le Floc'j, Mr. Riera Prison, Messrs. P. Rolland and G. Avantin, Messrs. Faure and Ruhlmann, Mr. Tringler, Mr. Lee Shie Yuang, Messrs. G. Gast, Y. Meal, J. Bouraicot, R. Sergent, A. Cadeau, P. Bruyere, P. Cody, J. Borne, J. Mervan, A. Noel, R. Noblanc, J. Perrassi, G. Etienne, J. Le Gall, M. Talano and R. Humbert, Mr. N. P. Wikhelson, Mr. I. V. Sheveleff, Mr. V. V. Mikhailovsky, Mr. L. I. Kushnier, Mr. V. Y. Tverdoff, Mr. M. P. Vasilieff, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Tekin and three sons, Mr. V. I. Kalujnikoff, Mr. V. S. Tirsky, Mr. King Tsen Tcheng, Mr. L. Gagnoil, Mr. P. Fondarles, Messrs. Labaume, Marchioni, Crenard, Scoffoni, Coat, Guidicelli, Moreau, Leca, Saumon, Dadota, Louvigny, Pierro, Vanucci, Mariani, Giovanelli, Casnova, Littre, Patacchini, Degon, Carel, Casanova and Lefevre, Mr. N. Banor, Mr. N. Sanor, Mrs. S. Kessissoglou, Mr. C. Nopper, Mr. H. H. Teheng, Dr. R. Gautier, Mrs. Ida Schoen, Mr. W. Kerrmann, Mr. N. Burrelon, Mr. and Mrs. Martin L. Scott, Mr. J. R. Matty, Mr. L. J. Matty, Messrs T. Cumings and C. L. Harding, Mr. Lobaud, Mr. M. Le Guennec, Messrs. Candotti, F. Decosta, Menon, Corot, Boniface, Lavaury, M. Decosta and J. Decosta, Mr. H. B. Pereira, Dr. and Mrs. Ch. L. Carhait, Mr. A. H. Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lee Jr and two babies, Mr. H. Cornell, Messrs. Ben and Nelson Fusen, Mr. Abdol Ahad Amoos.

Per str. Yingchow, December 19.—For Amoy.—Master Robert Elliott, Master H. Day, Master D. Day, Miss J. Strick, Miss Lois de Free, Miss M. Elliott, Miss H. Boot, Miss E. Boot, Miss M. Bott.

Per str. Shuntien, December 19.—For Tientsin.—Mr. and Mrs. Emiliano, Miss Stang, Mrs. Daws, Mr. Saletin, Mr. Schuster, Rev. Nother Splingard, Rev. Mother Chinese, Mr. J. C. Lawrie, Mr. O. Petersen, Dr. and Mrs. Robin, Miss Gladys Meech, Miss Hartley, Mr. H. H. Hora, Mr. Backer, Miss Gresham, Miss Root, Rev. Dimin Whelan, Mr. A. E. Silkstone, Mr. H. Bichi, Mr. P. Hagger.

Per str. Hsin Peking, December 20.—For Ningpo.—Miss D. Whitehead, Mrs. Sugg, Master Sugg, Master Smith, Mrs. G. High and three children, Mr. J. Palmer, Mrs. H. S. John Wilding and three children, Bishop H. J. Molony, Master Victor Firth.

Per str. Kutwn, December 20.—For River Ports.—Mrs. Robinson, Mr. W. C. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Lovell, Miss Avis Page, Mr. Hodges, Mr. Sisterne, Mr. Stucki, Mr. and Mrs. L. van Kns. Mrs. Dixon, Mr. Dixon, Mr. R. Lamphear.

Per str. Shantung, December 21.—For Hongkong.—Captain Potter.

Per str. Loongwo, December 21.—For River Ports.—Miss Ploeg, Miss E. Ploeg, Mr. Duehrkepp, Mr. Bustard.

Per str. Khiva, December 21.—For London.—Mr. F. O. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. H. Crombie, Miss E. Crombie, Miss C. M. Crombie, Mr. E. R. Cartwright, Miss R. Chisholm, Mrs. C. J. Davenport, Miss M. Davenport, Miss K. Davenport, Miss M. A. Penne, Mr. and Mrs. Gage, Mr. C. Gray, Mr. B. Hashimoto, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. King, Mr. W. M. Kelley, Mr. G. E. Legge, Mr. W. A. B. Leach, Mr. W. G. Leigh, Mr. D. McCracken, Miss A. I. Morgan, Miss L. Morrow, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Pennington and two infants, Miss A. K. Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Speirs, Miss M. Salway, Mr. A. P. Stoner, Miss K. Takahashi, Miss C. S. Vance, Mr. A. H. Whyard, Mr. H. R. Haddon, Miss M. Pearl Ellis, Mrs. W. E. Russell, Miss E. Russell, Mr. E. Ng K Chin, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace.

Per str. Nagasaki Maru, December 22.—For Japan.—Dr. Marcovitch, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Fletcher.

Per str. Hsin Peking, December 22.—For Ningpo.—Miss W. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. K. J. Holm.

Per str. Whangpu, December 22.—For River Ports.—Capt. and Mrs. Beatty.

Per str. Luenho, December 23.—For River Ports.—Mr. Humphrys, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, Miss Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. E. Marx, Mr. J. Korfs.

BIRTHS

QUALE.—On December 22, 1926, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to MR. and MRS. J. A. QUALE, a daughter.

CASSIDY.—On December 22, 1926, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to MR. and MRS. P. CASSIDY, a daughter.

DEATHS

CANDA.—On December 21, 1926, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, YSABEL CANDA, aged 54.

DOWNIE.—On December 1, 1926, in London, WILLIAM DOWNIE, representative of JOHN S. ELMORE, London, aged 51.

McGREGOR.—On Monday, December 20, 1926, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, ALEXANDER McGREGOR, of the Shanghai Municipal Electricity Department, aged 46.

NODAIRA.—On December 18, 1926, at Calcutta, MICHIO NODAIRA, age 48, of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Shanghai, of malaria.

HEARD.—On December 22, 1926, at the Country Hospital, Shanghai, MARY PURCELL, beloved wife of the late RICHARD HOWARD HEARD.

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SICCAWEI METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Day of Month	Barometer 9 A.M.	Barometer Att'ed Therm	Wind Direction a.m.	Wind Force 1-12	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Dry	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Wet	Thermometer in Shade Max.	Thermometer in Shade Min.	Weather conditions
Dec. 17	30.39	53.6	N N W	2	43.5	42.4	49.0	41.2	O. M.
„ 18	30.63	53.0	N	1	41.7	37.4	47.5	31.8	O.
„ 19	30.51	53.0	E N E	1	42.6	41.9	45.5	40.1	O. R
„ 20	30.41	52.7	W N W	3	39.6	39.4	41.7	38.5	O. D. R.
„ 21	30.57	51.3	N W by N	3	34.0	30.6	39.8	12.6	R.
„ 22	30.66	48.6	N W	3	29.1	25.3	34.4	25.1	R.
„ 23	30.69	46.6	N W	3	26.2	22.9	33.4	21.6	R.

Explanation

B—blue sky D—drizzle H—hail M—misty (hazy) R—rain T—thunder
C—clouds F—fog L—lightning O—overcast (dull) S—snow Z—calm

SHANGHAI THERMOMETER READINGS FOR THE WEEK

In the open air in a shaded situation in the Foreign Settlement

Date		Thermometer (Fahr.) Minimum 1926	Minimum 1925	Maximum 1926	Maximum 1925	Rainfall Inches 1926	Inches 1925
Dec.	17	42.0	36.2	48.0	46.0	0.12	Nil
„	18	37.0	33.0	42.0	41.0	Nil	„
„	19	42.0	36.5	46.0	40.6	0.14	0.10
„	20	39.6	31.2	47.0	40.4	0.20	0.14
„	21	32.0	32.0	42.0	30.5	0.03	Nil
„	22	37.0	30.6	32.0	41.0	Nil	„
„	23	23.0	20.2	34.0	48.0	„	„

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